

# Shooting Stands Of Eastern Massachusetts (1929)



John C. Phillips  
Henry M. Reeves







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# SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

BY  
JOHN C. PHILLIPS

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## Introduction

Shooting stands were permanent enclosed structures with connecting walls or embankments constructed along the shores of ponds and lakes of eastern Massachusetts for waterfowl hunting. They were little used elsewhere. Such stands were concealed by brush and reeds, and decoys, both live and wooden, were placed before them to attract passing ducks, geese, and other water birds.

The blinds themselves were sometimes rather elaborate affairs in which hunters comfortably whiled away the hours conversing, reading, writing, playing cards, eating, drinking, loading ammunition, cleaning guns, tending dogs, napping, and sometimes carving duck decoys or making small pieces of furniture. An observer was posted to watch for birds passing nearby or landing in the decoys. Upon such an opportunity he shouted to his companions who quickly grabbed their guns, hustled outside hidden behind the fence or embankment, and fired upon the unsuspecting birds.

Stands were sometimes manned continuously throughout the day and during many days throughout the

hunting season. Some stand owners, such as John Phillips, hired caretakers whose job it was to watch for waterfowl, take care of the decoys, keep the stove burning, and make the shelter as comfortable as possible. Caretakers often shot in the absence of other hunters. Should the land owner be in residence nearby, he might be summoned to the stand by a clanging bell or other means of communication.

Several dozen shooting stands existed during their peak usage in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Glaciated eastern Massachusetts was pocked with numerous ponds and lakes that provided ideal sites for stands. Those bodies of water over 10 acres in size had been designated by early colonial law as "great ponds", all open to public use. Most stands were located on shorelines of large estates and smaller private ownerships astride or near the Cape Ann peninsula. Here, migrating birds could be intercepted, augmenting the birds available locally.

Stand owners often kept daily records of the species and numbers of birds shot, the participating hunters, weather conditions, and performance of decoys and retrieving dogs. I found no records reporting upon poker winners or fifths of bourbon drunk. Unfortunately, there is

little mention of the disposition of the birds shot. Did any go to the market? Without John C. Phillips' involvement, these precious historical records would have been lost.

John C. Phillips was member of the distinguished hereditary-cultural elitist group known as the Boston Brahmins, or the First Families of Boston. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts on November 5, 1876, the son of yet another John Charles Phillips. His financial means enabled him to pursue many medical, military, scientific, literary, and philanthropic endeavors that would be otherwise impossible. Throughout his life he remained attached to the beautiful, beloved family farm-estate perched above Wenham Great Pond, twenty-three miles north of Boston.

John C. attended the Milton Academy and in 1904 he graduated from the Harvard School of Medicine with honors, continuing uninterruptedly the long line of Harvard Phillipses. Initially he did not practice medicine but engaged himself in gene research and hospital administration in Boston. Nonetheless he found time to conduct ornithological investigations and to promote the rising conservation movement.

Phillips volunteered early in World War I for duty in the Second Harvard Surgical Corps attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps. Upon the entrance of the United States into the fray, he transferred to the U. S. Army Medical Corps and advanced to the rank of major. In that capacity, he attended the wounded from three horrific battles along the eastern French front. After peace, he accompanied the Army of Occupation into Germany.

Upon his discharge, Phillips embarked upon a life of travel, exploration, collecting biological specimens, hunting, writing, editing, publishing, and participating in the conservation movement. His travels took him to Greenland (with Peary), Japan, Korea, the Blue Nile of African Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, the Belgian Congo, Arabia, Palestine, and widely throughout North America, including Alaska, Canada, Mexico, and Cuba. These trips prepared him to compile and compose his sumptuous four-volume opus, *A Natural History of the Ducks*, published during 1922-1926. Phillips personally bore most of the costs arising from its publication. The value of *A Natural History*... has not been diminished by time and it certainly ranks among the top two or three most important scientific books on the world's Anatinae, or ducks

Phillips privately published many other books including *A Bibliography of American Sporting Books* (1930, 638 pages, 75 copies) and several others dealing with historical aspects of waterfowl. He wrote *American Waterfowl: Their Present Situation and the Outlook for Their Future*, with Frederick C. Lincoln, father of the waterfowl flyway concept (also in 1930). A bibliography of his writings in 1933 totaled 169 titles. Thirty-five were later added.

John Phillips was well known and regarded in the Boston area sporting fraternity, so he personally knew or knew of many of the shooting stand owners. This facilitated his obtaining access to these precious records. Phillips' characteristic diligence and attention to detail facilitated completion of the huge task that few if anyone else could have accomplished. The shooting stand records he gathered, edited, and published filled what otherwise would have been a significant void in the literature of North American waterfowl hunting.

The enormous amount of time, energy, and money Phillips expended behind the scenes in promoting

waterfowl knowledge and conservation, both nationally and internationally, is undocumented. But we know that he was closely associated with the Boone and Crockett Club, the American Committee for International Wildlife Protection, the International Union for the Protection of Wildlife, and other conservation organizations too numerous to mention. Of his varied interests, probably none surpassed that in waterfowl, and their hunting, history, and conservation.

John C. Phillips collapsed and died suddenly of a heart attack on November 14, 1938, while afield in southern New Hampshire hunting ruffed grouse. A companion said that his dogs were on point and his gun was cocked for the shot. He was laid to rest at Wenham, near a small, winding, wooded brook. Phillips had joined his beloved woodcock and ruffed grouse and his cherished waterfowl were nearby on Wenham Lake. During his internment on the bleak fall afternoon better suited for waterfowling, the sound of a close-by gunshot inadvertently but fittingly saluted him.

His biographer-friend, Glover M. Allen, described him:

“ Always he was a sportsman in the best sense, believing in fair play for the game, moderation in hunting, and careful protection where conditions showed the need. Natural resources he regarded as a heritage to be enjoyed legitimately, administered wisely, and handed on to the coming generations with the least impairment possible.”

John C. Phillips was survived by his wife, Eleanor, two sons, and two daughters.

Much of the above is from Glover M. Allen. 1939.

*In Memoriam: John Charles Phillips, M.D. The Auk 56(3): 221-226.*

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Henry M. Reeves

Amity, Oregon

June 15, 2008



SHOOTING-STANDS OF  
EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



# SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

## STAND SHOOTING IN MASSACHUSETTS

THE southeastern part of Massachusetts thrusts an abrupt arm of land eastward into the Atlantic and forms with Cape Cod and its outlying islands a land barrier between the Gulf of Maine and the south shore of Connecticut and Rhode Island. This land mass may roughly be described as all the land lying south and east of Boston, as well as the true "Cape" lying eastward of the Cape Canal. All the region is well supplied with ponds.

North of Boston, Cape Ann makes a lesser thrust eastward, far enough, however, to intercept some flights of wild-fowl and shore-birds.

West of Boston, Massachusetts is still well supplied with ponds and lakes all the way to the Connecticut Valley, but west of that river in the Berkshires large sheets of water are few. But from the standpoint of the wild-fowl gunner, only those lakes in the northeastern and southeastern parts of the State are of any particular interest. There are some 1268 great ponds (over ten acres)<sup>1</sup> in Massachusetts which total over 100,700 acres. In these rough notes I have only considered those ponds which, lying near the coast, have been occupied at one time or another by shooting-stands.

All this region is rich in fine lakes which lie in the track of birds passing overland from Boston and Quincy Bays to the south shore. More than that, the coast itself is for the most part low and sandy, and there are many huge areas of eel-

<sup>1</sup> A great pond (State-owned) is now twenty acres or more.

grass flats, shellfish beds, and extensive salt marshes, where Black Ducks, Golden-eye, Scaup, Eiders, Canada Geese, and Brant winter, to say nothing of great numbers of Scoters and Mergansers. Very few of these ponds have really valuable duck foods, and they are resorted to mostly by straggling migrants or local 'tending' ducks seeking fresh water or a rest.

When I was a boy there were scores of ponds in the Cape region that had never had even a shanty to mar their shore-lines. Rapid changes are now going on and all our so-called 'Great Ponds' are going the way of the ocean beaches and coastal shore-lines everywhere. The change is inevitable, but it is a great pity that a few of our finest ponds were not saved as little wilderness areas before they were completely built up and ruined for all those who love primitive places.

Recent city or metropolitan development has swarmed out of the old centers and enveloped our ponds with thousands of formless and gaudy camps, thrown up for the most part without a thought for their appearance either from within or without. The old duck stands are gradually being pushed to the wall, and except where a few owners can afford to hold large stretches of shore-line, they must eventually be replaced by summer homes.

These notes are a first attempt to preserve a record, fragmentary at best, of the location, history, and, when possible, performances of some of these duck stands.

My information has come from a great variety of sources. The State has a record of most of the stands which are still operated, with their owners and the annual reports of the totals of ducks and geese shot. Such information is voluntary, and because most stand shooters are suspicious of all 'seekers after truth' and fearful lest their shooting be curtailed by legislation of one sort or another, very little is volunteered. The large goose stands are careful not to say too much about a big score or a particularly good year, while some of the less successful ones may pad their records in

order to appear more important in the eyes of the knowing ones. On the whole, there is more trimming than padding. I have endeavored to sift information and discard what seemed 'unlikely'; but with so many stands that are not well known to me, a good many errors, both in names of owners and in the totals of birds accounted for, are bound to occur. Ownership is constantly changing, which makes a correct check almost impossible.

We realize more and more the importance of obtaining accurate annual returns from the important shooting centers all over the United States. This little book is an attempt to show what could be done if those interested would keep a record of all species shot and the dates they were taken on. It is true that the older pond gunners of this State had an all too simple classification of the ducks they shot. Plain 'ducks' meant in nearly all cases Black Ducks, with a sprinkling of Mallards. 'Gray Ducks' referred to Pintail, besides a few Gadwall and American and European Widgeon. The term 'Widgeon' was used to cover both species of Scaups and the Ring-necks, while the name 'Butter-balls' or 'Dippers' might refer to Ruddies, Buffle-head, Golden-eye, perhaps Hooded Mergansers, and other diving species. Not many Redheads nor Canvas-backs were recognized. They were rare in most places anyway. Few of the sea-ducks were correctly placed, or, if recognized, were not thought worth recording.

We do not know the exact numbers of wild-fowl shot in Massachusetts, but from the information at hand we can give a fairly accurate guess. According to State returns, the total of geese shot at the permanent stands will average about 4200. Poor years, 2500 to 3000; good years, up to 8500. Not a great many geese are shot outside the goose stands. We have no figures for Brant, but it is doubtful whether since spring shooting was stopped the total would come to over 500 or 600. Probably two or three Lesser Snow or Blue Geese are shot nearly every year in Massachusetts.

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The annual bag of Black Ducks which are reported taken in the ponds and permanent stands along the coast is about 10,000 birds, probably ranging even to-day as high as 16,000 on good years like 1921. The average number of stands reporting to the State in the six years 1921 to 1926 is just over 100. Actually there are a good many more than this, but, as I said before, they are not obliged by law to render any returns. I would put the number at about 180 to 190 for the season of 1928.

If we allow at least half as many again for the ducks shot in all the rest of the State, including those taken along the coastal marshes (and this is certainly conservative), we arrive at an average figure of about 15,000 Black Ducks for the whole of Massachusetts. Bear in mind that only a small part of the State holds many ducks after the very first of the open season, and on an average year nearly all the locally bred ducks have left our dried-out river marshes and swamps by early September and gathered on or near the coast. We must add around thirty per cent to this figure for the duck stands which do *not* report and for those that do not give out their entire season's bag. If we wish to include all the ducks of the better sort, exclusive of Scoters and other salt-water ducks, we would reach a figure of about 25,000 for eastern Massachusetts. Most of the ducks shot on the Vineyard and on Nantucket are not included in the state returns.

It might be interesting to note here that between 5000 and 6000 live Canada Geese are in use to-day as goose decoys in Massachusetts. Of duck decoys there are somewhat less, say a little under 5000. And in this estimate I include only the duck decoys that are used in permanent stands. Many more are kept for occasional use in temporary blinds.

The stand gunner is, to say the best of him, a picturesque creature teeming with pond-lore and weather-wisdom, half goose, half philosopher. At the worst he is a lazy, Rip Van Winkle sort of chap, carrying about with him a disdain for all things modern, and having not improbably a taste for

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drink. As a rule he is harmless, though more or less frowned upon by upland shooters of a more sprightly and progressive type. His long suit is patience, and he lives from week to week hoping for a big storm which never arrives, or a great shot that he surely will pull off if he lives long enough. He sees many things as he leans over the board fence of his blind, things that happen in nature only at rare intervals, and he has some tall stories of remarkable happenings, many of which are true.

He is constantly waging a petty war against some neighboring stand, and his temper is severely tried by wandering boys or cottagers who do not realize that the goose flight constitutes in his almanac the supreme moment of the year. Indeed, he inclines to date mundane events as happening before or after the great ice-storm of November, 1921, as others would speak of the World War.

I know of one old gunner whose camp was broken into so many times that he lost all patience and finally set a gun inside the door which unfortunately resulted in the death of a too inquisitive boy.

Even in the short time that I have known something of the shooting in our ponds (since 1898), there have been remarkable changes in the status of different species of water-fowl.

There is little doubt in my mind that the coastal goose flight has increased in the last thirty years, or at the worst, held its own. I say this after allowing for the increase in goose stands and a multiplication of live goose decoys.

Black Ducks also have kept well up to their former numbers; probably they have increased, but they have changed their habits and are now much harder to come by. When they are given a chance they still make diurnal flights to fresh water to rest and drink, especially early in the season, but they have learned to avoid most of the built-up and over-shot ponds. In our great bays and marshes their numbers are still enormous, as any one can verify by a glance at Plymouth or Duxbury Bays, the Great Bay in southeastern New

Hampshire, and many of the Cape Cod marshes late in December.

Most of the western-bred ducks have decreased in numbers, particularly Ruddies, Redheads, and Lesser Scaup. On the other hand, Greater Scaup, Canvas-back, and Ring-necks have increased somewhat. Mallards, Pintail, and Green-winged Teal are probably a little scarcer than they were thirty or forty years ago, while Blue-wings, from being very common, have become actually rare. They seemed to stage a slight come-back in 1927. Ruddies also have appeared quite numerously this season (1928). One of the most remarkable changes is to be found in all the species of Scoter. Thirty years ago 'Coots' or Scoters were common in a great many of our larger ponds in late September and in October. Now they have learned to avoid the ponds and do not fly overland if they can possibly avoid it. At Wenham nowadays we scarcely see two or three in a season where once considerable flights cut across Cape Ann. I know of only one or two ponds on the Cape where large numbers are seen now. There is no reason to suppose that any of the Scoters have actually decreased in New England.

Gadwall and Spoonbills remain as rare as they always were, with an occasional very small flight. They are about the rarest New England ducks.

Buffle-heads have been reported as greatly less than in the older days, but I doubt if there is any great change. The ubiquitous Golden-eye (Whistler) is still seen everywhere, and probably has increased, but he is too wise to give the stand gunner many shots.

In judging of the number of ducks and geese taken at our ponds in these days, one must make allowance for many disturbing factors. Cottages have come in almost everywhere and their occupants stay much later in the season than formerly. A few have made these fishing camps into autumn or winter homes. Huge boulevards have cut in close to many of our best ponds and carry a constant stream of motors and

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noisy trucks. Everywhere there has been an increase in electric lights and a general extension of city conditions into the country along these new highways. Gasoline filling stations, hot-dog stands, and dance halls have crept in where once the mink and muskrat reigned supreme.

A great many stands in former days depended on shooting at night for most of their sport. This shooting, now illegal, still goes on, especially on the beaches and salt marshes, but eventually it will be stopped.

Then, in some of the Cape ponds a good many geese were shot on the spring flight, more than in the autumn. Since spring shooting was stopped, many more geese stay the winter with us, especially on the outer Cape and about the Islands. They seem to stay later in the spring also and are far more confiding at this season than of old, feeding on the upland in March and April where geese would have never dared to come before the migratory bird law went into effect. Brant, too, are far commoner in the autumn than they used to be and many more spend the winter with us.

There is another great change. The practice of baiting ducks did not become common in the State until fifteen or twenty years ago. It has now greatly modified the shooting for Black Ducks in the Cape ponds. Some places have far more ducks than they ever did before, while others, of course, have less. Growls are to be heard from the less fortunate.

The formation of many huge reservoirs in all the cranberry-growing sections has increased the area of water and undoubtedly increased the breeding-places for Black Ducks and Wood-ducks. Some of these reservoirs would make splendid sanctuaries and should be so utilized. As against this, most of the large cedar swamps have been cleared and transformed into cranberry meadows which are not of much value to bird life of any sort.

The typical Massachusetts goose stand consists of a camp large enough to sleep and feed six or eight men, usually built on the pond shore directly back of the stand fence or 'breast-

works.' The breastworks often extend along the pond shore for some distance on both sides, and it is customary to keep the duck beach more or less separate from the goose beach. This beach, which is artificial, may have one or two considerable points. It is sand-covered in most cases and used primarily to peg out the decoys so that they will show better from off in the pond. The beach also serves to keep wild geese or ducks from getting in too close for a shot during the night. It is a kind of common meeting ground and washing-up place for all the live decoys and much care is lavished upon it.

Some decoy geese are also kept in the stand, mostly the old mated pairs, while the goslings or flyers are in pens on higher ground back of the camp. In some places special platforms are built to fly them from. Most of the flyers are only first season birds, but they will work just as well at two years of age and occasionally at three or four years. The front of the fly pens are made to lift up or drop down by pulley lines which run back to the stand. In a few camps electric devices are used to open the pen doors. In this way the gunner can get his flyers out over the water in a few seconds after he locates a flock of geese in the air.

In the old days a team of 15 or 20 geese was large. Now 50 to 100 is the usual number and at Widgeon Point, Silver Lake, in Tom Arnold's time, 300 to 400 were in use. It was a marvelous sight to see them put 50 or 60 flyers into the air at one time.

Besides the live geese, a fleet of wooden or canvas-covered blocks or 'goose-woods' are anchored out in the pond at some distance from the stand. The individual size of these has been increased until in the larger lakes and salt-water bays they are about the size of flour barrels. They are built somewhat on the plan of a canvas canoe. These gigantic shapes do not appear to bother migratory geese in the least.

The foregoing will show that there is a considerable investment in goose stands to-day, taking into account land on

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the shore, camps, coops, fences, live geese, live ducks, and canvas-covered or wood decoys. Then, too, the expense of running a large goose camp is very great, for, besides the caretaker with sometimes a cook hired for the season, there is the expense of caring for the old geese, the raising of goslings for another year, and keeping all the equipment in shape.

The old stands, which were started by a few local gunners at small expense, have in many cases been bought up by clubs or well-to-do individuals who have elaborate, even luxurious camps, and in a few cases employ a gunner by the year to look after the property.

Undoubtedly the first goose stands were associated with the shoemaking industry and were gunned by groups of cobblers, who took their work with them to the pond-side camps and shot geese when they could to help pay for the expense of running the stand. The shoe belt of Bridgewater, Rockland, and neighboring towns probably developed the first goose stands, and from this as a center the use of live decoy rigs on a large scale spread eastward to the outer Cape, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket, and north to Essex County and southern New Hampshire.

The earliest description that I have been able to find comes from the first volume of Sir Charles Lyell's 'Second Visit to the United States,' chapter seven. On that journey in October, 1845, he stopped at a pond in East Weymouth and described it in this fashion:

'On our way back from Plymouth to Boston, we passed near the village of East Weymouth, by a decoy pond, where eight wild geese, called Canada geese had been shot since the morning. Swimming in the middle of a sheet of water was a tame goose, having one leg tied by a string to a small leaden weight; and near it were a row of wooden imitations of geese, the sight of which, and the cries of the tame goose, attract the wild birds. As soon as they fly down, they are shot by sportsmen of a true New England stamp, not like the Indian hunters, impatient of a sedentary life or steady la-

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bour, but industrious cobblers, each sitting all day at his own door, with his loaded gun lying by his side, his hands occupied in stitching "russet brogans" or boots for the southern negroes, to be sold at the rate of twenty cents, or tenpence a pair. After working an hour or two, he seizes his gun and down comes a goose, which may fetch in the Boston market, in full season, two and a half dollars — the value of a dozen pair of brogans.'

It is very unlikely that a large goose stand such as this was using only one live decoy. It is interesting also to note that the one decoy was tethered in the water, something that is never done nowadays.

The earliest stands, say along in the thirties and forties, were probably duck stands. Then they began to use a few geese on the beach, but for a long time no one was bold enough to attempt flying hand-reared goslings. In all my rambles among goose and duck stands I have never been able to learn the name of any pioneer in the science of flying goose decoys. I doubt if anything was known about it until the late seventies or early eighties. It seems as though somebody must be alive to-day who remembers the first attempt to train a team of flyers.

Goose shooting in Massachusetts is a most uncertain pastime. It is so uncertain that we can scarcely blame its advocates for filling in their spare time by social card games and it must be confessed frequent resort to artificial stimulant. Worse than this, the bootlegging industry has been known to use some of the shore camps (possibly without their owner's knowledge) to house a landing of smuggled liquor!

What is the future of goose decoying in Massachusetts? That is a question difficult to answer, but it is a constant source of wonder to me why the geese that cross Massachusetts have not long ago learned to avoid our ponds entirely. Other wild-fowl, even the Scoters, have changed their course, and why not the geese? In some years the flight now steers

far outside or else goes by in clear westerly weather so that few are shot. In other years they behave in an almost ridiculous manner and thousands are shot early in the season, even in mid-October. Some of these early October geese are particularly foolish. At Hunt's on Duxbury Beach they made a practice one year of shooting the old pair with a rifle and actually driving the goslings into the stand. These same goslings were used afterwards as flyers and gave no trouble at all! Some of them ate corn as soon as captured and seemed to have no fear of man and his works. Where do these extremely tame geese come from?

I have spoken somewhere else of the late flights of what the gunners call 'white bellies' or 'short-necked' geese. Their general appearance is different from the ordinary run of November geese, and yet it is not possible to classify them as a distinct variety. Some day these geese in my opinion will be recognized by ornithologists as representing a peculiar race.

So much for a few general remarks on the subject of Massachusetts gunning-stands. One could develop his theme to almost any extent. Every stand has a story all its own, if only one could get it, but, as I have remarked before, stand owners as a class are not given to talking unless they know whom they are talking to. These notes represent a great deal of effort by a few people, among whom I should mention with gratitude Alfred B. Gardner, A. Elmer Crowell and Cleon Crowell, Porter J. Perkins, Hon. Andrew J. Peters, Allan Keniston, Nathan Pratt, Walter C. Baylies, and Dwight Blaney.

The ethics of this kind of shooting come up for frequent comment, and it must be confessed that the 'goose' end of it, especially, leaves much to be desired. There is undoubtedly a tremendous thrill in the flying of goslings and the watching of a high migrating flock of wild ones as it responds to the call of a fine beach team, but the actual shooting at a flock of swimming geese is not often a sporting proposi-

tion. When there are only one or two men in the stand, it is a difficult matter to make a big shot, for geese do not often pack well, but when a large crowd lines up 'to the count,' as they do nowadays, and if, further, this crowd is armed with automatics, there is little chance for a medium-sized flock.

But the worst of it is that geese nearly always light far out in a pond and there is seldom a chance for a real wing shot.

With Black Ducks the so-called 'slaughter' is not nearly as easy as it looks, for one false move will spoil the chances for a great shot. Big shots are rare indeed. The sitting shot may be easy, at least for men used to shooting together, but the jump shot is always difficult and usually complicated by the flying of one's own loose decoys.

We are not fortunate in Massachusetts in the matter of flight shooting for the better kinds of fowl. Martha's Vineyard is about the only place where real flight shooting was possible. Therefore, the development of stand shooting is a kind of natural outgrowth of rather unusual conditions. We are not especially proud of these methods of ours, they resemble too much the 'hut' shooting of the French; but at least they are peculiar to New England and therefore of some interest to the history of American wild-fowl shooting.

### THE SHOOTING-STANDS

#### *Great Bay, Rockingham County, New Hampshire*

Great Bay, in New Hampshire, near the mouth of the Piscataqua River, is so near to Massachusetts that a few notes about its resources in ducks and geese may not be out of place.

On a fine day in November, it is a goodly sight to look off from some of the points on the west shore and see the dense flocks of Black Ducks. In early autumn at low tide the flats are dotted with Great Blue Herons, thirty or forty in sight at a time. In August there are often a few white (Little Blue)

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Heros or Egrets, and at all times gulls and other sea-birds. Among the rafts of Black Ducks you can nearly always see little 'pods' of American Widgeon and at times a large pack of Scaup ducks 'tends' at the mouth of the Exeter River or in Greenland Bay.

At night these wary duck rafts swim up to the shore to feed and if you are sleeping in a gunning camp they will keep you awake with their racket. As the tide drops, you will hear a roar as a flock gets on the wing and flies out into the Bay again. These are the safest ducks on the coast of New England.

This Bay is a huge tidal expansion only five miles west of Portsmouth and receives several considerable rivers, the Essex and Lamprey being the largest. At its south end it is over five miles wide, most of this area consisting of immense beds of eel grass, bare at low tide.

Great numbers of ducks and geese use this Bay, and in late November as many as 6000 to 8000 ducks and 1000 or more geese are sometimes feeding there. Even in August a considerable body of birds use this Bay, flighting back to the ponds or to the ocean for fresh water or rest.

Before Black Ducks became so thoroughly educated, this Bay was a fine shooting region, but nowadays it is very difficult to get a respectable number either from the shore or from a float. Float shooting is moderately successful in October, but only when an expert is at the scull oar. It is the custom to drop down the Bay on a falling tide, hunt during low water, and return toward Newmarket or Greenland on the flood. Nothing can be done at high water. From 1916 to 1926, 'Ote' Ingalls, of Ipswich, gunned a blind on Pierce Point, operated by a club from Portsmouth, run by Charles Allen (land owned by Eugene Daniel). This is a magnificent location on a long point of open hay land running out into the southeast corner of the Bay with a fine shallow cove to the westward. I have visited this blind many times. It is built into a little cliff or gravel bank and is more or less of a cellar,

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not attractive to those who enjoy the open air and a view of the sky and water. Ingalls started shooting there in 1916. Before that Tom Wilson, of Ipswich, looked after the place. 'Ote' did not keep records, but he tells me that 1916 was his best year when he bagged about 400 ducks (Blacks) and 40 geese. He often shot 300 or more Black Ducks in a season with some Scaup, Golden-eye, Widgeon, etc., etc. His poorest year was 1926, and since then the stand has not been operated.

'Ote's' best shot was 20 Black Ducks taken with one shot from an automatic. Tom Wilson floated a bunch of Scaup one time and picked up 16. In 1925 a 'snow goose' was taken and in 1926 a young White-fronted Goose. 'Ote' saw nine swan in the Bay at one time (year?), but they did not stay long. It is not uncommon to see Brant in the Bay and there is a record of one flock of 150. 'Sulley' Cochrane floated these and shot three.

J. Sullivan Cochrane started gunning at his farm on the east shore (Portsmouth) in 1920. About 85 per cent of all ducks shot are Blacks. Most of the geese and a good many ducks were shot from floats. The totals as given me by Mr. Cochrane are as follows:

	Blacks	Geese
1920 .....	108	21
1921 .....	130	18
1922 .....	115	0
1923 .....	37	0
1924 .....	140	1
1925 .....	118	0
1926 .....	143	0

Besides these there were taken during those seven years the following:

Brant .....	6	Scaup.....	20
Mallard .....	3	Green-winged Teal.....	23
Pintail .....	17	Blue-winged Teal.....	4

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Redheads .....	11	Baldpates.....	9
Ruddy .....	14		

besides a few Sheldrakes, Scoters, and Golden-eyes.

Mr. Cochrane used formerly to gun regularly for upland game, and in the years 1920 to 1924 his records show 272 Ruffed Grouse and 94 Woodcock. In the last years he has given up brush shooting and taken up the manufacture of barberry jelly.

### *Phillips Stand, Newmarket, New Hampshire*

In 1926, I leased a point called Moody's on the map. It was on the farm of H. H. Nichols in the town of Newmarket in the southwest corner of the Bay. On the north is a cove and a salt marsh at the head of it. On the south is the mouth of the Lamprey River. This stand was built on the end of a narrow point facing the northeast and a portable house was joined to it. Porter J. Perkins, of Wenham, looked after this stand in 1926 and 1927, after which I abandoned it.

Total for the two years was as follows:

Black Ducks.....	179	Scaup.....	1
Mallards.....	6	Geese.....	21
Blue-winged Teal.....	18	Golden-eye.....	5
Green-winged Teal.....	7	Buffle-head.....	9
American Widgeon.....	4	Ruddies.....	3
Pintail.....	4	Scoters.....	2

and a few Mergansers, American Coots, Yellow-legs, Snipe, and Woodcock. Total for the two years, 391.

There are several other stands on Great Bay, but they are operated irregularly. There is some flight shooting on certain winds at the long point which runs out toward Nanney's Isle in Newington. Compared to the great numbers of ducks and geese which gather here, very few are shot. They raft in enormous flocks and when disturbed move only a short distance. Stand shooting is over as soon as the ice comes, although after this it may be possible to get a few ducks on

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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some of the points during very heavy weather. Geese are extremely difficult to decoy and collect in large rafts like the ducks. The only chance is to decoy them when the first small flocks appear in October.

### *Salisbury Marsh Area in New Hampshire and Massachusetts*

I do not know about any permanent gunning-stands in this region. A great many ducks and shore-birds used to come to Boston market from here. The house blind does not appear to have become fashionable in these marshes as yet.

### *Merrimack River, West Newbury*

There are some flats at the mouth of the Indian River on the south shore of the Merrimack. 'Wild rice' is said to grow here and on a small island in this marsh there have been various temporary duck blinds. A few ducks breed here and it is a good place for geese in the spring.

### *Kimball's Pond (Lake Attitash), Merrimac and Amesbury*

*275 acres*

Kimball's Pond has not been gunned regularly in recent years and is now built up to cottages, some two hundred around the Lake.

In 1889 there was a family by the name of Tukesbury on the Amesbury side that had a blind there and shot 'quite a lot' of geese and ducks. At that time there were only six camps on the pond shore. The last few years only temporary blinds have been used and a very small number of birds taken.

### *Chadwick's Pond, Boxford and Haverhill*

*177 acres*

Mr. Charles B. Morss, of Haverhill, has a camp 'on a tiny marsh island' where he lives all the year round. He wrote

me a long letter telling of his ducking experiences here and at other places. He says that he kills some 75 ducks in a season 'here in my back yard,' as he expresses it. He keeps his decoys in three separate wire pens on different sides of the camp and often shoots out of the door or window.

I was interested to hear that he shot about a dozen Ring-necked ducks there in 1928, also a Gadwall.

*Newburyport-Parker River-Ipswich Salt Meadows*

There are now a good many permanent huts on these marshes, mostly gunned irregularly. These huts are built on stilts near some salt pond, which is enlarged by digging out sod.

The first of these was the Wilson-Simpson blind built by Tom Wilson on a little drumlin in the marsh about one-third mile from the Ipswich Poor Farm. This must have been about 1898. I have shot a few ducks out of this myself in winter when staying at Tom Wilson's place at Eagle Hill, Ipswich Neck, about 1898 to 1905. The house was of cement and sunk into the gravel mound. It was supposed to be water-tight, but I remember it as a damp, clammy, and very uncomfortable hole.

'Ote' Ingalls stayed in this camp one year only (about 1900, I should guess). Most of the shooting in those days was done at night, and only Black Ducks, with a few Teal early in the season, comprised the bag. Winter Yellow-legs helped to 'make the pot stink.' I don't think any large bags were ever made here, for the pond was not dug out large enough.

A rather exciting experience happened to Mr. Simpson and a friend of his who were sleeping in this camp. In the middle of the night a high run of tides flooded the camp and they were forced to stay in the upper bunk until the tide went down. Chairs and tables were floating around in the waist-deep water and Simpson got such a scare that he never used the camp again.

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This blind was sold to Neal Rice, of Ipswich and Hamilton, a good many years ago, and I believe he still owns the land it was built on. When Dr. T. Barbour and myself purchased the 'Duffie' Burnham blind at the head of Paine's Creek, a short distance south, we burned the old Simpson-Wilson house in order to make the place less attractive to wandering shooters.

### *The Burnham-Barbour Blind*

This shooting hut, as mentioned before, was begun by 'Duffie' Burnham, of Ipswich, about 1915, or perhaps earlier. It faces Paine's Creek and has a well-made pond to the west and to the east of it. It was good for a few ducks, Teal and Yellow-legs, and commands a fine view of the extensive marshes. It was purchased by Thomas Barbour and myself in 1922 (I sold my share in 1926). The first season the place was occupied by J. L. Peters, the ornithologist, who kept an interesting record, but did not capture a great many ducks. The same year Burnham sold his old blind to us; he built another one just across the creek, directly west, which interferes with the shooting. During the last few years, 1925, 1926, 1927, the Burnham-Barbour blind has been gunned by Frank Crowell, of Hamilton, and Earl Whitcomb.

The year J. L. Peters shot there, 1922, he made the following score:

Blacks.....	56	Winter Yellow-legs.	36	
Green-winged Teal	5	Summer Yellow-legs	106	partly by T.
Pintail.....	8	Beetle Heads.....	3	Barbour and
Buffle-head.....	2	Golden Plover.....	1	W. S. Brooks
Sheldrake.....	3	Dunlin.....	1	

### *'Duffie' Burnham Blind, Ipswich*

This, as stated above, was built in 1922 about a quarter of a mile west of Burnham's old blind. This was a good place for Yellow-legs and a certain number of ducks are shot there.

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There was a considerable natural slough around the camp and this was enlarged by digging.

There are now a good many other camps in this area of marsh, but I doubt if they do much.

### *The Ben Moseley Camp, Rowley Marshes*

There is no regular stand; shooting done from boats and temporary blinds. A good many rail used to be shot by Mr. Ben P. P. Moseley and his friends. The largest bag of Black Ducks was 71 in 1923. Other years, all the way from a few to 52 in 1920. Rail up to 166 (in 1900). Besides these, a few Blue-winged Teal, common duck, and shore-birds are taken. In 1924 a European Pink-footed Goose was shot at this place, and in 1927 two black Australian Swans (escaped). Mr. Moseley writes me that in all his records since 1900 there were only one Canvas-back, 2 Redheads, and 12 or 13 Mallards.

### *Hinkley Stand, Rowley River; Wilkinson Stand*

I am told that Mr. George Hinkley, who used to gun at Chebacco, started a camp with his son on Rowley River in 1926. Did not do very much and gave it up.

Robert Wilkinson, of Hamilton, has a camp stand on these Rowley marshes, which is said to do fairly well.

### *Clark's Pond, Ipswich Neck*

This tidal marsh, flanked by the high pastured hills of the Neck, was dyked across in 1900 by Mr. Clark, forming a large fresh-water pond; very attractive to water-birds. It has for the last few years fallen into disuse owing to Mr. Clark's death, and the dyke has broken through, draining a good part of the pond. But even to-day it is a splendid resort for shore-birds, terns, herons, and gulls and later on teal and ducks. Cottages are creeping in from the Little Neck Colony, and this very interesting place, beloved by ornithologists,

will be eventually ruined. All attempts to save it as a bird sanctuary have failed, as the land ownership (mixed with old rights vested in the schools of Ipswich) is too complicated.

Mr. Clark ran this stand with 'Ote' Ingalls as gunner for about fifteen years. During that time I often visited the place. No exact scores are now available, but there were some large bags of geese. More shot in spring than fall. The stand was an underground cement house dug into the side of the hill on the west shore. Mr. Clark kept a huge team of geese, around 100, as I remember it.

During the first few years 'Ote' tells me they shot a great many Blue-winged Teal. One bunch of 75 or 80 came in. Very few Green-wings ever came there. Many Pintails were shot there, and in some years Ruddies (which were shot from a float) appeared in good numbers. Black Ducks always were the main bag. 'Ote' says he doesn't remember ever taking a Canvas-back; very few Redheads and perhaps a single Spoonbill occasionally. Buffle-heads were always plentiful. Only one Brant was ever shot here.

'Ote' tells me that spring geese were almost always fat. But one spring a bunch of 30 appeared, and as near as he could make out were taken sick, so that in the end all except three were picked up dead around the pond. The three healthy ones stayed around till the stand was closed on May 20th.

The biggest day's bag of geese ever made was 30 taken on a certain Thanksgiving Day (date?). I have an idea that 100 more or less was the usual score for a year.

The biggest shoot on Black Ducks that 'Ote' remembers was 43, taken in one day early in the season. They used to bait the early ducks.

*'Saltham' Pond near Tilton's Hill, Beach Road, Ipswich*

A piece of salt meadow with springs at its head nestled in under the west side of Tilton Hill, near the mouth of the Ipswich River. We always called it Cavarley's Hill on ac-

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count of the old Cavarley farm which took in the whole of this great bare hill. J. L. Saltonstall and myself conceived the idea of damming this meadow (there had once been a dyke there) so as to form a pond of about 20 or 25 acres. This we did in 1905 and built a little blind in the meadow on the east shore. Eli Rogers, of South Orleans, gunned this from September 6th to October 27th of that year, having rather poor luck. The score was as follows:

Blue-winged Teal.....	36	Ruddy Duck.....	6
Green-winged Teal.....	10	Wood-duck.....	1
American Widgeon.....	5	Greater Yellow-legs .....	12
Lesser Scaup.....	5	Grass birds.....	10
Redhead.....	1	Snipe.....	5
Golden-eye.....	1		
Total.....			92

It was never gunned regularly again. Widgeon grass came in here very thick and in late summer many Black Ducks got to 'tending' there. One fall at the opening of the season I went over with canoe and picked up 11, shooting alone. There must have been 100 birds using the pond, but I had strong competition.

This would have been a fine place to bait, but in those days we didn't know a great deal about the possibilities of baiting. One year a good many Lesser Scaup got to using this pond and some fair shoots were had.

Mr. Richard Crane bought Tilton's Hill about 1909. He later flowed this pond to a considerable depth. Also the Augustus Rantoul house was built on the western shore, which made the pond less attractive for ducks.

### *Safford-Hurd Blind at Ipswich Bluffs, Plum Island*

A small goose blind was started here in 1925 or 1926 and one or two teams of flyers used. In 1926, geese were shot late in the season. There is some float and jump shooting for ducks here also.

*Hood's Pond, Ipswich and Topsfield*  
67 acres

Of the various small ponds in Boxford and Georgetown I do not know of any that were ever regularly gunned. Certainly this has not been the case in the last thirty years or so. They are too far to the westward to catch much of the flight.

Hood's is, however, a very attractive sheet of water, although since the days of motors it has become too civilized and many cottage camps have appeared at the west end, besides a hotel. A great deal of the land around the east end and the north shore is held by Mr. Bradley W. Palmer. 'Bert' Byers began shooting this pond in 1895 and stayed there twenty years, and I often visited his snug little blind about midway of the north shore. Afterwards this land changed hands, and he moved to the edge of the cedar swamp at the east end, where he gunned for eight or ten years, until Mr. Palmer took over that property also. This whole east end is shallow and swampy and good for water-birds.

Mr. Byers has no records left, but remembers pretty well what he did there. I am inclined to think the pond was good for about 75 Black Ducks, or around 100 birds of all kinds. He says he shot 87 Blacks in one season, and on one great flight (date?) some 400-500 ducks came into the pond. There were few poor years, always about the same. Byers is inclined to think that when night shooting was stopped by Federal law in 1913, fewer Black Ducks came to the pond from the marshes. He usually closed up his stand the first week in November, never figuring on the pond being good for late flights.

Of odd and unusual birds seen or shot he told Porter Perkins the following story: He said that 18 geese was the most he ever shot in any one year, and that one day he shot 10 alone. In November, 1910, three Swans came into the pond and swam up to the blind near enough to shoot. He

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saw once a flock of Brant over the pond, a very far west record, but they did not stop.

Mallards he saw off and on. One bunch of 37 came to him and he got 19 of them. He remembers one flock of 14 Bald-pates and says he got all of them. Twice he shot Canvas-back, four at one time, two at another. Of Redheads only one flock was ever seen and 7 were shot. Scaups were never plentiful, and in his best year he shot 20 Lesser and 3 of the Greater. During all his twenty years of gunning only one flock of Whistlers came into this pond, 13 of them, and he got 8. (It is extraordinary the preferences which Whistlers have for certain ponds. At Wenham they are very common, only five and a half miles away.)

Very few Scoters ever reached this pond. A few teal used to be taken and now and then a flock of Wood-duck appeared. Byers saw 14 one day.

No gunning here since about 1915.

### *Topsfield Meadows, Dodge's Camp, West Hamilton*

The Ipswich River, after passing under the railroad tracks in Topsfield, crosses the north end of Wenham Swamp, looping its way for five or six miles through lush meadows and prettily wooded islands. This has been one of my own stamping grounds for at least forty years. In the midst of these meadows the right bank of the stream touches an island of an acre or so separated by a few yards of marsh from the striking backbone of what I call 'Snake' Ridge. Here Julian Dodge built a little camp in 1898 and dug out a pond. The island has been referred to at some length in Townsend's 'Birds of Essex County.' Dodge was a bird-lover as well as a shooter, and for some years enjoyed this camp with two or three friends. He called it 'Oquawka,' meaning a place in a marsh.

W. S. Brooks has told me of the life at this camp and the shooting. Of course it was at its best in wet years and September was the most productive month.

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Julian Dodge died in 1909, and since then no regular gunning has been done there. I am told that he kept a good record of the shooting at his camp, but nobody seems to know what has become of it. The camp was left to a nephew, who is still too young to enjoy it.

There was an old camp on the middle of the upper marsh, west of 'Snake' Ridge when I was a boy. Later it was moved into a niche in the bank of the ridge itself. I have forgotten who owned it, or what became of it. I saw it on my first voyage down the Ipswich River about 1890.

### *Pleasant Pond, Wenham and Hamilton*

43 acres

When I was a boy this was by far the most beautiful and I think the most secluded pond in Essex County. It reposed amid high ridges amply crowned with noble pine and hemlock. At its north end a marshy stream flowed north through a most romantic little valley into the Ipswich River, some three miles away. This was a great place for Wood-ducks and Black Ducks, especially in the spring.

The pond was never gunned with a good rig and would have been a very fair place for ducks, and geese too. I used to tie out a few decoys at the south end some thirty-five or forty years ago, and occasionally got a duck.

The banks of this lovely pond are now completely ruined by rows of frightful cottages, a painful sight for one who knew the place in its original state.

The western bank of this pond was, I think, one of the greatest places for Ruffed Grouse I ever saw, and the high ridges to the north and west of the pond were perhaps nearly as good.

### *Muddy Pond, Wenham*

18 acres

This small pond in the north edge of the Wenham Swamp, although secluded, is not a very good place for ducks to land.

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Porter J. Perkins has gunned there at times with one or two live ducks and shot a few birds early in the season. I used to tie out a few decoys there myself when a boy, but never did much.

### *Cedar Pond, Wenham*

This small pond of less than ten acres lies between Cedar Street and the north end of Wenham Lake. The surrounding land is now all owned by Mr. F. L. Higginson. The pond is of the 'no bottom' type and is not attractive to ducks. I once saw a large flock of geese in it after a heavy November snowstorm.

### *Wenham Lake, Wenham and Beverly*

*251 acres*

I have covered this lake so thoroughly in my little book 'Wenham Lake Shooting Records and the Farm Bag, 1897 to 1925,' that I need not go into details here. This lake, where I shot my first duck about forty years ago, lies far enough to the east to catch a good many odd birds crossing the base of Cape Ann from Ipswich Bay to Salem Harbor. I cannot find that there ever was a regular gunning-stand on this lake, certainly not for the past forty-five years, and probably *never* until I built my first one in 1898. Before that I shot from floats, crawled to ducks in the coves, or drove them by points.

In the big years of 1901 to 1905, it would have been possible to make very large bags had there been no boats, but during these years boat shooters were very troublesome. And there were thirty or forty boats licensed on the lake.'

The largest bag, including some snipe and shore-birds, was in 1904 when 374 birds were taken. In 1903, 326; in 1901, 362, etc. After 1905 came poorer seasons with fewer Ruddies, Redheads, Widgeon, and Scaups. The best recent year was 1925 with 256; 1922 with 200; 1921 with 260.

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The old stand on Butler's Isle Point, midway of the westerly shore of the lake, was abandoned in 1910 and a new stand opened up on the northwest shore just below my house ('Windy Knob'). Of late years there has been no regular gunner employed and watch has been kept only during favorable weather.

Looking back thirty-five years, it is evident that there have been great changes in the duck flights over this lake. Geese are far more plentiful than they used to be, and Black Ducks, especially in September, are much commoner. Ruddies, Lesser Scaup, Redheads, and Widgeon are now very scarce, so that large seasonal bags are no longer possible. Ring-neck Duck and Canvas-backs are commoner. No boating has been allowed on this lake for many years, but motor cars, with their lights, street lights, and other evidences of evolution (?), have changed things very much. It is now rare to have Black Ducks come to the lake at night. The big early morning shots we used to count on are a thing of the past.

The following is a list of all species shot from 1897 to 1928 inclusive, except one year, 1899, when records were lost:

Black Duck.....	1937	Buffle-head .....	93
Mallard Duck.....	43	Old Squaw .....	5
Gadwall.....	2	White-winged Scoter....	21
European Widgeon.....	13	Surf Scoter .....	20
Baldpate.....	70	American Scoter .....	1
Green-winged Teal.....	66	Ruddy .....	510
Blue-winged Teal.....	27	American Merganser....	69
Shoveler.....	5	Red-breasted Merganser	16
Pintail.....	41	Hooded Merganser.....	87
Wood-duck.....	13	Scaup (unclassified)....	303
Redhead.....	123	Ducks (miscellaneous)...	75
Canvas-back.....	21	(season 1899 only)	
Greater Scaup.....	69	Scoters (unclassified)....	101
Lesser Scaup.....	225	Canada Geese.....	402
Ring-necked Duck.....	37	Blue Goose .....	1
Golden-eye.....	206	Brant.....	1

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Pied-billed Grebe.....	30	Little Auk.....	1
Horned Grebe.....	5	Leach's Petrel.....	1
Holboell's Grebe.....	5	Greater Yellow-legs.....	96
Grebos (miscellaneous) ..	20	Black-bellied Plover.....	1
Loon.....	4	Dunlin.....	1
Red-throated Loon.....	2	White-rumped Sandpiper	24
American Coot.....	26	Ring-necked Plover.....	1
Cormorant .....	7	Kildeer.....	2
		Total.....	4829

It is always interesting to remember the big days and big shots at Wenham, especially as these occasions were never frequent. I have a record of every big shot made so that I can safely give the best ones. One gun means one man with a double-barrelled gun, usually 10 ga. or 8 ga.; in later years 12 ga.

October 9, 1900. One gun; 8 Scaup out of 10 Scaup.  
 November 16, 1900. Two guns; 14 Blacks out of 19 (lost one).  
 October 22, 1901. One gun (J. C. P.); 8 Redheads out of 11.  
 October 25, 1901. Three guns; 11 Redheads out of 15 (two 8 ga. and one 10 ga. gun).  
 November 24, 1901. Three guns; 14 geese out of large flock.  
 October 8, 1903. Three guns; 13 Black Ducks out of 24.  
 October 22, 1903. Three guns; 16 Redheads out of 16 (or possibly 18).  
 This was the best shot ever made at Wenham.  
 October 22, 1904. One gun (E. Crowell); 12 Scaups out of 18.  
 October 4, 1905. One gun (E. Crowell); 9 Ruddies out of 22.  
 October 8, 1914. One gun; 9 geese out of 14.  
 October 11, 1916. Three guns; 11 Black Ducks out of 15.  
 October 21, 1922. One gun (J. C. P.); 9 Redheads out of 10.  
 October 26, 1928. One gun (P. J. Perkins); 9 Black Ducks out of 15.

Some of the big days at Wenham were as follows:

		Total
October 22, 1901.	15 Ruddies; 11 Redhead.....	26
October 25, 1901.	13 Redheads; 9 Blacks; 1 Ruddy; 2 Scaup; 1 Eared Grebe.....	26

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	Total
November 24, 1901. 26 Geese; 9 Black Ducks.....	35
October 8, 1903. 18 Black Ducks; 3 Coot; 1 Grebe.....	22
October 23, 1904. 14 Lesser Scaup; 4 Mallards; 4 Redheads; 1 Ruddy; 1 Greater Scaup....	24
October 4 and 5, 1905 43 Ruddy Ducks.....	43
October 13, 1905. 30 Ruddies; 1 Black; 1 Pintail.....	32
November 1, 1908. 15 Redheads; 2 Blacks; 3 Scaup; 5 Ruddies; 1 Green-winged Teal; 2 Buffle-heads; 1 Golden-eye; 1 Hooded Merganser.....	30
November 2, 1908. 12 Blacks; 4 Green-winged Teal; 4 Ruddies; 1 Hooded Merganser; 1 Scaup; 3 Buffle-heads.....	25
October 11, 1912. 16 Geese; 5 Blacks; 2 Redheads; 1 Winter Yellow-leg.....	24
October 19 to 23, 1915 Stand and upland shooting in near-by home coverts as follows: Geese, 6; Ducks, 56; Ruffed Grouse, 41; Wood-cocks, 16; Pheasants, 7.....	126
October 23, 1915. 18 Ruddies; 6 Scaup; 13 Grouse; 1 Woodcock.....	38
November 28, 1921. 16 Geese; 6 Blacks; 1 Ruddy; 1 American Widgeon.....	24
November 29, 1921. 18 Geese; 5 Blacks; 1 Little Auk .....	24

### *Beaver Pond, Beverly*

This little muddy pond of eight or ten acres was always a good place for ducks. Norwood Pond, connected with it by a brook, was also good. There have been small 'boys' stands on these ponds in former years, and I dare say a fairly good bag of ducks could have been made there. The shores are now owned by private estates.

### *Miles River Meadows, Hamilton*

This meadow has always been rather a good place for early ducks and snipe. Frank Crowell has a small camp on

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the brook below Moulton Street which is quite a good place in wet years.

### *The Chebacco Ponds*

A few miles east of Wenham Lake lies one of the most attractive groups of ponds in Massachusetts, Big Chebacco, Beck's Pond, Round Pond, Gravelly Pond, and Coy's Pond. They are all connected by little streams and surrounded by a wild wooded region, most of which was never farmed. Such a fine group of ponds ought to have been preserved as a park or wilderness area long ago, but nothing of the kind has been done and the march of metropolitan development has ruined the large lake.

### *Big Chebacco Pond*

209 acres

When I first knew this beautifully shaped lake, with its beech and hemlock-crowned shores and its lovely coves, it was almost a wilderness. We used to drive over to the old Chebacco House, put up our horses, and go for a row or sail on the lake, then back to a most wonderful chicken dinner at the hotel, and so home. On one of these occasions we rowed in among some of old man Woodman's decoys and got a rifle bullet across our bows which caused much flutter among the ladies. I expect this was about 1886-1888.

But the first real blind at Chebacco was operated by one Solomon Mears at the extreme northern end of the lake, east of where the Charles Mears ice houses stand now. I am told that they gunned for geese only. No information as to the bags obtained is available, as this was from about 1875 to 1885.

### *The Woodman Stand, West Shore*

About the time Mears gave up his stand, the Robert Woodman blind and camp was built on what is called

Gregory Island on the west shore. The location is ideal with a lot of wild land in behind and a fine cove on the south. It faces the narrows, so that ducks coming down the lake must pass very close to the point. George Hinckley and Robert Woodman built this stand together and gunned there many years. I remember Woodman well, a small, very lame man, 'hard-boiled' as to his shooting 'rights.' I believe he lived in Malden and manufactured conductors' ticket punches. Woodman sold me my first pair of decoy geese, a fine pair, and I raised many goslings from them. To this day Gregory Island, now owned by Henry P. McKean, is exactly as Woodman left it, covered with a splendid almost virgin growth of beech, hemlock, birch, etc.

The Woodman stand was gunned regularly from about 1885 to the time of Woodman's death, about 1905-1910. Then it fell into more or less decay under the auspices of Woodman's sons. From the time it was started until the Moses blind was built opposite to it on the eastern shore, along in the early nineties, Woodman enjoyed the lake to himself, and a fine place it was. Although he did not shoot nearly as many geese as have been shot in the lake in recent years, he did get a lot of ducks. I should say his stand was good for about 200 Black Ducks, 40 or 50 geese, and various odd fowl. The Woodman Point (Gregory Isle) was always the best duck point, while the Moses blind on the east shore was better for geese.

When I used to visit Woodman, there was a pretty constant 'pond war' in evidence. Old Woodman used to say, 'Well, they earn every d—— one they get, all right.' And he would toss out some white decoy ducks in order to scare away his neighbor's birds.

Mr. Hinckley recalls one very good day at Woodman's when 26 geese were shot by one man alone. He shot 16 Redheads one season and quite a number of Pintails. I remember Woodman told me of one great flock of Mallards late in November into which he made a big shot. Ruddies were

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common in the old days at Chebacco, but curiously enough few of the Scaup or Whistlers which we saw so often at Wenham. Mr. Hinckley says only one Canvas-back and one Spoonbill were taken at this stand in thirty years. He never saw a Brant stop in the pond, but observed one flock over the lake in a bad storm. They took one Little Auk there.

In 1922, Gregory Island was purchased by Henry P. McKean, Q. A. Shaw 2nd, and Henry Lee. It had lain vacant for a number of years. The new club built a large blind, rigged the northern point facing the upper basin, and put up a new camp on the wooded knoll back of the blind. The beach team was one of the largest and finest in Massachusetts, and Mr. McKean undertook the breeding of a great flock of goslings. By this time, or rather long before this, the shores of the lake were lined with cottages and a good deal was going on around the pond at all times. The first year, 1922, they did very little, being new at the game. The next year (1923) McKean bought out his friends and improved his rig still more, getting 20 geese and 87 ducks (60 Blacks). In 1924 he connected his upper or goose stand with the old Woodman duck stand and used 36 goose flyers and at least 50 geese on the beach. This year netted him 31 geese and 137 ducks (98 Blacks) in spite of the closed time which was declared on account of fire risks. During this closed time he had 54 geese on the beach one day and many other bunches in the lake.

That year (1924) he obtained 14 Pintail, a large bag for his place, 3 Mallards, and 1 Canvas-back.

In 1925, McKean increased his beach team to 40 flyers and 75 beach birds on the upper stand and 25 more on the old Woodman Point. Also he rearranged his fly pens so as to show his birds better to the north. The total bag was 51 geese and 208 ducks (143 Black Ducks). That year he shot 1 Redhead and 4 Canvas-backs. In 1926, McKean rented his stand and it was poorly gunned, getting only about 75 birds all told.

SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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It is being gunned now (1928) by Mr. Frederick Prince and others.

*Moses Blind, Chebacco Lake*

Started about 1893-1895 on the eastern shore of the lake under a high wooded bluff, facing the narrows. Always a good place for geese. Owned by the Moses family, of Beverly. For a time Mr. George Hinckley was with them, and of late years Mr. Arthur W. Beckford, Sr., and his son. This being close to the road has always been one of my points of call in the autumn, and many a yarn has been spun 'while leaning against the breastworks.'

This stand was good in the old days for 100-125 Black Ducks and 75 to 150 geese. Mr. Hinckley tells me of one good shot he made alone at this blind, stopping 7 geese out of 9 with two double-barrel guns.

He says one flock of 21 or 22 geese came to this blind and were stopped in one volley by five men. Such a shot is very unusual, for geese seldom pack as closely as ducks.

As a great many people used to come and go at this stand, they got the idea of keeping a gun loaded with empty shells for inexperienced or over-excited individuals. The trick worked very well on several occasions.

The following scores were supplied by Mr. Beckford, of Danvers. They do not include all the 'odd' fowl, but are reliable for geese and Black Ducks.

	Geese	Black Duck	Mallard	Various
1913 .....	25	31		
1914 .....	95	62	1	
1915 .....	12	24		
1916 .....	15	30		
1917 .....	1	19	1	11
1918 .....	3	63		19
1919 .....	29	56		13
1920 .....	96	101		21
1921 .....	152	155		31

### SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

	Geese	Black Duck	Mallard	Various
1922 .....	23	73		13
1923 .....	51	75		23
1924 .....	70	50		23
1925 .....	60	85		36
			including 8 Mallards, 9 Pintail, 1 Canvas-back	
1926 .....	124	63		23
1927 .....	40	60		

#### *Round Pond, Hamilton*

*19 acres*

##### *'Steve' Edwards's Blind*

This is a very cozy little sheet of water in the Chebacco woods just south of the Big Lake. Why it is called *Round* I do not know, as it is really long and narrow, about a half mile or a trifle more in length.

Before 1907 the shooting was done by the Edwards family from brush blinds in different places around the shore, mostly, I think, on the west shore. This land was bought by Frederick Prince and Mr. Edwards moved to the east side on land of William P. Sohier, where he built a camp. The view across the pond from this blind toward the big pines on the Prince estate is one of the prettiest in Massachusetts waters.

I am informed that the best year netted 100 ducks, about one half of them Blacks. One year they shot 20 geese, but as a rule the pond is not good for geese, being too small and narrow and too near the large Chebacco Lake. The stand is not usually gunned very hard: a few geese and 40 or 50 ducks being about the average.

The biggest shot they ever made here was 9 geese out of a large flock by one man using two guns. The best two days' bag on ducks was 40. What year this was I do not know. During the twenty-odd years' gunning by the Edwards family they have shot 4 Spoonbills. Also they have bagged 4

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SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Canvas-backs here. One bunch of Redheads came into this pond, but none were shot at.

*Gravelly Pond, Chebacco Group, Hamilton*

*43 acres*

This is a 'woodsy' little pond, or rather it used to be, but there is now a brick pumping station at the south end and the road runs pretty close along the east shore. Mr. W. P. Sohier has a fine camp on the west side with a splendid outlook. There is a small duck stand under the steep bank on the east shore, but it is not good for many birds. It is owned by Joseph Foster, Jr., of Beverly, who reported 32 ducks shot there in 1925 and 16 for 1926. For 1927 only 10 ducks.

*Coy's Pond, Wenham*

*35 acres*

Shores owned by Frederick Prince. I do not think this pond was ever regularly gunned.

*Beck's Pond, Hamilton*

*30 acres*

The road follows close around the west shore and south end and there are ice houses here. Part of the shore-line, however, is quite secluded. It has never been gunned that I know of.

*McKean Goose Stand, Pod's Isle, Essex Marshes*

Mr. George Lyman and Mr. George von L. Meyer had a camp here for the shore-bird shooting many years ago. H. P. McKean bought the property in 1926 and built a huge goose blind at the eastern edge of this small wooded island. There is a fine stretch of open salt marsh in front, with Choate Isle and the Ipswich sand dunes along the skyline.

During the first season he did not have much of a pond, but

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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got, up to November 1st, 80 Black Ducks, 14 Green-winged Teal, 4 Pintail, 1 Mallard, 1 Scaup. During November he got 20 geese and 38 Black Ducks, closing the blind on December 5th.

He found it very hard to decoy geese on the open marsh, although this is a good flight line. He writes me: 'This year, 1926, they (the geese) crossed for the most part way to the eastward, following the water back of Hog (Choate) Isle. Those that came over us we had great fun with, for they hesitated to land and would swing about many minutes giving us some grand wing shots, but such shots do not swell the score as a general rule.' In 1927, Mr. McKean got 29 geese, 55 Black Ducks, 9 Green-winged Teal, 3 Widgeon, 1 Mallard, 1 Gadwall, and 2 Sheldrake. He keeps a cook and a caretaker there during the season.

He has found that his great team of live geese enclosed by wire makes it difficult to decoy ducks. He tried goose 'blocks' out on the marsh, but concluded they were a bad investment.

### *Cape Pond, Rockport, Massachusetts*

38 acres

I am told there never were any regular duck stands here and the place has now some large ice houses on the shores. At times a few geese and ducks are shot there by local sportsmen.

In an old book by H. C. Leonard on Pigeon Cove written in 1877 I find the following: 'Sometimes, they [the geese] are so weary and borne down with weight of ice and snow on their wings, as to seek shelter and rest in Squam River or Cape Pond. Once a flock of wild geese, thus tired and heavily burdened, having dropped at night into this little body of water, by morning were held fast by the rapidly forming ice, and so were easily captured by some sportsmen who had witnessed their descent.'

*Milk Island Stand, Rockport*

In the middle of this island is a small pond which has always been a good place for Black Ducks. George H. Mackay, who used to shoot 'coot' at Rockport in the sixties tells me he knew about the place then. In recent years it was leased by a George B. Fuller and Elliot B. Frost, of Worcester, who had a little camp on the edge of the slough. They did some baiting there, but I do not know how many ducks they ever shot. When I first went on the island in 1924 or 1925, it was infested with rats. Through the efforts of a few interested persons (the Federation of New England Bird Clubs) this island was obtained for a State Bird Sanctuary and the rats were poisoned. In 1927, for the first time in many years, terns began to breed there, showing that they would have done so long ago if they had had the opportunity.

I received some pellets of Snowy Owls from this island in the winter of 1926-27 and these were full of rat remains.

*Martin's Pond, Reading*

100 acres

George Williams, of Lynnfield, who gave me some information about the old days on Suntaug Lake, tells me that he camped on this pond many years ago, but never had any luck. There were a number of small stands around the pond which were gunned irregularly.

Probably this water is too far to the west. It used to be a great place for ducks on the spring flights in April when I first knew it some thirty-five years ago (about 1894). It was a wild, remote sheet of water then, very marshy around the outlet. This is one of the principal sources of the Ipswich River. I used to camp there during the spring vacation with my old friend Thomas W. Peirce. We did a good deal of canoeing in the Shawsheen and Ipswich valleys.

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### *Suntaug Lake, Lynnfield and Peabody*

157 acres

This is a large 'squarish' body of water about three fourths of a mile from east to west and lying on the west side of the Newburyport Turnpike, very close to that now populous speedway. It has one large island in it, beautifully wooded. Along the north shore is, or rather was, the old Saltonstall estate. The region is beginning to build up rather rapidly and there has always been a considerable settlement around Lynnfield railroad station. The lake is a water supply and is often pulled down low in autumn.

On October 4, 1927, I had a talk with George Williams, who lives on the lake near the Suntaug Inn. George Williams was eighty-four years old in March, 1928, and has operated a small 'booth' on a point in the northwest corner of the pond since about 1865. He shot for the market from that time until about twelve years ago, when all shooting was stopped and the pond became a sanctuary.

Suntaug Lake had two stands in the old days, and a man named Grimson shot with George Williams. He says their best year was 240 large ducks (Blacks and Mallards), besides birds which were not counted. The average number taken at the stand would be about 100 to 125 good ducks. Speaking of big shots, Williams told me that one morning he and Grimson stopped 20 Black Ducks at one shot and picked up 19 of them, but a skunk got the twentieth. This was the biggest shot he ever made in his entire shooting experience. One moonlight night he got 13 Black Ducks at one shot alone. He used two muzzle-loading guns; one an 8-gauge single gun, and the other a double 11-gauge. The greatest number of birds he ever saw was one morning many years ago when a flock of 'at least one thousand Black Ducks' came in from the north and lit all over the pond. They stayed only about five minutes and then got up and went off.

He used to shoot up to about December 18th. One day

late in the fall he nearly drowned when he capsized in an Indian bark canoe, which he called a 'war' canoe, brought down from Maine by his chum. He shot crossways at a crippled bird and went over, and had quite a time getting out again. He never shot but five geese in his life, four at Suntaug Lake and one at Flax Pond in Lynn, and he never used live goose decoys.

The largest flock he ever shot into on Suntaug Lake was a bunch of about 100, that he got 13 out of as mentioned above.

Williams was very insistent in speaking of a duck he called 'The Great Whistler,' which had a black head and neck and a canvas-tinted body. He says he has seen none of these ducks for many years and believes them to be extinct.

King Eiders, he tells me, were not very rare in Suntaug Lake years ago, but he has seen none for ten or fifteen years. He has shot a few Redheads, six or eight, perhaps, but never any Canvas-backs. He never saw any swan. In the old days many Scoters bedded in the lake, often forty or so in a flock.

Williams had the impression that he shot many more Mallards in former years than are seen at Suntaug now. He knew of one Brant being taken there, and among rarities told me that he had shot two Spoonbills (Shovelers). He told me that the price he got for ducks ranged from ninety cents to a dollar and a quarter a pair.

The other stand on Suntaug was gunned by Dave Wallace, the caretaker for Mr. Saltonstall. Wallace shot on the point of the island, but did not get a great many ducks.

Suntaug Lake is now a considerable reservation for Black Ducks and at times a few other species. It has been protected since about 1912 or 1915. These ducks go out to the eastward in the evening, probably to Lynn Bay, and a few are shot in flight from the cabbage field lying on the east side of the Turnpike, close to the north shore of the pond. But as the ducks get wise, very few are taken, as they fly too high. The greatest number of ducks I ever saw in the pond was about

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600 to 1000 and the numbers are fairly constant from year to year. Last year, 1927, there were hardly any ducks in the pond the whole autumn and 1928 seems no better. I cannot account for this.

Some ten or twelve years ago the State put out a bunch of 100 Mallards in Suntaug Lake, and this was perhaps the beginning of the large flock of wild ducks that accumulated there. None of the original Mallards are left now.

I was told of other men who used to gun at Suntaug, as follows: Sylvester Nugent, Bryan Richardson, and George Tibbetts. The last two apparently operated a stand of their own on the west shore.

### *Cedar Pond, Peabody*

15 acres

This little pond lies between Lynn Bay and Suntaug Lake and there is some flight of local ducks over it. E. E. Skinner and a few others have hunted there irregularly since 1888.

David Aylward, of Peabody, and Skinner built a camp there in 1924. Saw lots of ducks flying over toward Suntaug Lake, but shot few. This camp was burned down and afterward rebuilt.

### *Flax Pond or Wenuchus Lake, Lynn*

71 acres

George Williams, of Lynnfield, used to gun Flax Pond with live decoys before he came to Lynnfield. He tells me that there were four different booths on Flax Pond in the sixties, gunned by Dixbury (Ducky) Moon, Vestry Mansfield, Jim Paul, and Alden Burrell; also a man named Grimson. Williams thinks that the four stands did not take much more than about two hundred ducks and Teal in Flax Pond. This pond appears on the maps as Wenuchus Lake and is now practically included in the City of Lynn.

*Nabnasset Pond, Westford, near Lowell*

115 acres

A small stand on this pond, which, according to the owner, Mr. Henry A. Fletcher, of Chelmsford, R.F.D. No. 2, must have been gunned for many years, reports as follows in 1925: 11 ducks in 65 days' watching. This, Mr. Fletcher adds, is the poorest season in thirty years' hunting and he fears the ducks are on the 'same road the pigeons took some years ago.' 'I was there when that happened,' he continues.

*Slate Island, Hingham Harbor*

This has always been a famous duck stand, lying well out in a bay that is not only a good feeding ground, but also on the line of flight across the base of Cape Cod. The stand is owned by H. R. Drinkwater, of Braintree, Massachusetts.

In 1925, the State report gives a bag of 163 geese and 85 ducks. In 1927, 169 geese and 37 ducks were reported to the State. One white goose is recorded (Blue?), and this is said to have been the best goose season in twenty years' experience. Fifty live goose decoys and fifty goose blocks are in use.

Mr. Drinkwater writes me that the first stand on Slate Isle was built in the early eighties and run by Nathan and Herbert Tirrell, of South Weymouth. They were the sons of Dr. Tirrell, of North Weymouth. With them was William Thompson, of Rockland.

Edwin Clapp, of Edwin Clapp & Son, East Weymouth, came into possession of the island in 1893, and his gunners were Joshua Vinal and Nathan Woods Bates, of East Weymouth. The stand has been in constant operation with a caretaker ever since.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Clapp's best year was 73 geese, but this record has been continually beaten until it is around 170 for a season.

There is quite a mixed bag made at this stand, Black Ducks, Whistlers, Widgeon, Sheldrake, and Coot, with now

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and then some Brant, Mallards, Pintail, Old-squaw, Eider, etc. Some years a flight of Teal.

### *Sheep Isle, Hingham Harbor, in Town of Hull, just South of Peddock's Island*

The owner of this blind is Mr. Frank L. Brickwell, 295 Front Street, Weymouth, Massachusetts.

In 1925, Mr. Brickwell reported a bag of 106 geese and 63 ducks. In 1926, 56 geese and 48 ducks. He uses about 70 live geese and up to over 100 'goose woods.'

He notes a large flight of ducks in 1925, but says none can stay on feeding grounds now on account of airplanes. In 1926, a good many 'tending ducks,' but no flight ducks.

I am told that this is a spot where in some seasons a large bag could be made. Most of the shooting is done when Mr. Brickwell is at the stand himself.

### *Lily Pond, Cohasset*

48 acres

This little pond is only a few miles back from the shore, and therefore in rather a favorable spot for wild-fowl.

The following notes on the early history of this pond were sent me by Mr. L. B. Fletcher, who, with his uncle, Mr. A. L. Brown, lives in a house on the north side of the pond right opposite the present stand. There is only one stand on the pond to-day (1927).

Here are the high-lights in regard to Lily Pond: Before 1653, the pond at Cohasset was named Conyhasset Pond, an Indian name which means 'Long rocky places.' In the latter part of 1653, the name was changed to Scituate Pond, and after the New Haven Railroad was put through Cohasset, the name again was changed to Lily Pond.

The first settlers on the pond were W. O. Souther in 1866, who began shooting there as a boy of sixteen and has been shooting ever since. His stand was on the south side of the pond.

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In 1898, 'Charlie' Curtis, an old fox hunter, who lived alone in a camp on the west side of the pond, shot there until 1918, when A. L. Brown, Mr. Fletcher's uncle, purchased the land and Charlie Curtis moved away. In 1922 and 1923, a club was allowed to use this stand on the west side of the pond, but since then no shooting has taken place on the west side.

From 1890 to 1918, Wood-ducks bred around this pond and could be seen at almost any time during spring and summer. In December, 1917, a three and three-quarter pound pickerel was taken by A. L. Brown, the largest ever reported taken through the ice from this pond.

The largest number of geese taken in one season from any one blind was approximately 100, and from the two blinds about 150, and about 200 various kinds of ducks.

A club was formed five years ago, 1922, on the south side of the pond and a shooting-stand has been maintained there up to the present time. The name of the club is now the Lily Pond Game Club, with Walter S. Kerr as treasurer.

In 1925, they reported to the State 22 geese and 85 ducks shot, and the next year, 1926, only about 50 ducks and no geese. For 1927, 70 geese and 35 ducks. This ought to be a much better pond than it is. The club uses about 40 to 45 live geese and 20 to 40 live ducks with a good lay-out of wooden decoys.

### *Gulf Stream Club, Cohasset*

*Louis J. Figuerette, Borden Street, Cohasset*

There is a stand here on Barley Creek, but whether it is used for legitimate gunning, I do not know.

### *Brush Isle off Cohasset, Massachusetts*

*Brush Isle Stand, owner Mrs. Ethel Cabot, East Milton*

There is a camp and a goose stand on this small rocky island just off the Cohasset rocks. I have anchored near it many times when after 'coot' in October.

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Ellery Litchfield, of Church Street, Beechwood, reports for the stand in 1926 that they shot 2 geese and 20 ducks, using 15 live goose decoys and 18 live ducks. After that year it was given up.

There were at various times one or two salt-water goose blinds in Cohasset Harbor. They are all given up now. I remember hearing of quite a bag of geese shot by one of these stands not so many years ago.

### *The Bog, South Hingham*

There used to be a goose stand on 'The Bog' which got some geese. Around 50 or 60 in one year, but they have never done anything since, according to what Fred Gardner has told me. In recent years it has been shot very little. Ernest Loring keeps a few live geese in a pen there and goes down to 'feed up' in the morning. They shot 7 there in 1927. The place freezes very early. It lies just east — northeast of Queen Anne Corners on the outlet of Accord Pond. It is a small flowed meadow close to the State rifle range.

This place was started by John H. Wilder some fifteen or sixteen years ago.

### *Weir River, Hingham*

#### *Bates Stand*

There is a small stand here at Ring Bolt Rock that I have never seen, operated by H. O. Bates, of Hingham. This is on a small creek just east of Hingham Bay near the Brewer estate at World's End. There is a stone crusher near by besides the Nantasket branch railroad. They shoot very few ducks and no geese.

### *Accord Pond, or 'Cod' Pond, Hingham, Norwell, and Rockland*

100 acres

This pond, although small, is well situated to catch overland flights from Quincy Bay and the neighboring salt water.

It is one of the big crossing places for geese. Relative to its size, I think more fowl have been shot in this pond than any other in Massachusetts.

*North Shore Blind, North Shore Gun Club*

This is a very old stand. Fred Gardner tells me that it was gunned as early as 1857 by Bradford Brooks and others. The stand is a large one, 200 feet long with about 60 live geese, 25 ducks, and 75 wooden decoys. A gunner is employed there the whole season as is the case in many of the larger goose stands.

The best bag ever made at this stand was in 1920, when 240 geese and 100 ducks were taken. This is remarkable when one considers there were two other stands competing. The poorest year was 1917, when only 2 geese and 50 ducks were shot here. The average number of birds killed is about 135.

The biggest shot ever made on geese at this stand was 20 out of 25 with five guns, that is with five men shooting.

Joe Lincoln, of Accord, says that there was a stand on the north shore as early as 1840 where Terrill or Thayer gunned for three or four years. As far as he could find, they had no live goose decoys and only gunned for ducks. From 1857 to 1866, this stand was regularly gunned by 'Brad' Brooks, Dexter Smith, Mack and Allen Shaw, Spencer Brooks, and Annas Chubbuck. It was closed from 1866 to 1878, when Amasa Whiting and Joseph Curtis gunned there two years. The present camp was built in 1882 and, with the exception of three years, 1884, 1885, 1886, has been operated every autumn since. Amasa Whiting and his son Amasa were the owners up to 1904 (Amasa died in 1883). Since 1904, the place has been under the present management (North Shore Gun Club), William C. Young, of Accord, secretary. They reported 87 geese and 35 ducks in 1927.

Chubbuck's Stand on the west side has been run every year but one since 1882. The largest score was 125 geese,

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and the smallest year, 3 geese. This stand does not appear to render a report.

On the east side, 'Leon' French had a stand in the early sixties which was gunned regularly up to 1917 with the exception of four years, 1870-73. The best year was 125 geese: poorest year, 4 geese.

There is one other camp on the north side run by W. W. Estabrook, of Boston, but I have no information about the bags made there.

It is interesting to find that more geese have been seen at Accord Pond in recent years than in the old days. In 1925, more than for twenty years before that. Among rare birds shot at Accord Pond in past forty years are 8 Brant, 1 swan, several Canvas-backs (the North Shore Club reports 9 in 1925), as well as one Phalarope. I believe I heard also of one or two white geese being shot there. (Lesser Snow or Blue Geese?)

### *Jacobs Pond, Norwell, at Assinippi Post Office*

54 acres

This pond does not report to the State. It used to be, considering its small size, rather a good pond for geese.

In 1927, a stand, called the Assinippi Gunning Stand, operated under Frank N. Vining. They got only 23 geese and 40 ducks. Robert E. Comins, of Norwell, used to run this stand. His address is Wollaston, Massachusetts, and he leases the Truant's Isle Camp at Marshfield Hills.

There are now (1928) two stands, both on the west shore. Fred Farrar ran the old west shore stand thirty-five years or so ago (the northerly one). It has been vacant most of the time. Ernest Loring gunned one year in the old Callamore stand and got near 100 geese. This was the largest bag ever made at this stand which has been gunned by several different parties. A good many ducks are seen at this pond, but they decoy badly and many go up into the swamp at the north end.

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The mill at the foot of the pond is now gone. When it was used, the pond was often drawn down very low.

### *Whitman's Pond, Weymouth*

188 acres

This large sheet of water, lying as it does just south of Hingham Harbor and other salt-water inlets, must have been a great shooting pond at one time. It is now very much built up with cottages, ice houses, etc., and is in the midst of metropolitan development. There used to be a stand on the east shore, not far north of the road to South Hingham, but I do not see the decoys there now. They were shooting there until recently (W. Hanniford) and were good for about 150 ducks and geese.

I saw Jimmie Lynch, of Whitman, in 1928. He told me that about sixty years ago Henry Shaw had a stand on the west shore. Then came the Davidson Stand on the same shore, a few hundred yards away. Lynch's brother, James H. Lynch, a lame man, did little but fish and gun around this pond for forty-nine years and had a stand on the north shore. He used to get 20 or 30 geese and 50 to 75 ducks. The other stands were good for around 100 ducks each with 50 or 60 geese, say, around 350-400 birds for the pond on an average year.

Jimmie Lynch remembers the biggest shot ever made at his brother's blind — 29 'white-bellied ducks' with several guns. He has seen 175 or more geese in the pond at one time, and remembers one Christmas night when they had a huge flock in the pond. But just as they were about to pull, one excitable man shot his gun in the air and one goose was the total result.

Lynch remembers only one Canvas-back shot out of three. They used about 50 ducks and 40 live geese in his old stand.

I have heard rumors of a terrific 'pond war' at this lake during which rifle shots were exchanged.

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*Trip-Hammer Pond, Hingham*

14 acres

There is said to be a stand on this pond run by R. P. Burr, of Hingham Center, but no reports have been rendered. This is a very small pond on one of the brooks flowing into the Weir River. It is gunned only by boys. No camps. Rarely a few geese are shot here.

*Weymouth Great Pond, or Lake Wessagussett,  
South Weymouth*

290 acres

This large lake, although so close to Boston and fast building up to cottages, is still a fairly good place for game, as it lies in a first-rate flight line. The north and most of the east shore has now been taken over by the town for reservoir purposes, and I understand they intend to take still more.

In 1928, I had a talk with Mr. E. L. Morrell, who lives near the west shore and keeps the decoy geese for the Bog Point Stand. He has gunned that stand for about twenty-seven years. When he first knew the pond, there were eight stands operating, and the season's bag for the pond was about 200 geese and 500 to 600 ducks. The best year at Bog Point was 195 geese and 300 ducks. This may have been 1912 (?). The usual score for Bog Point was about 80 geese and 200 ducks: the last few years not so good.

Mr. Morrell tells me that live decoys have been used at this lake for at least a hundred years. Mr. E. La Forrest Belcher, of Brookville, gunner at Bog Point, would know a lot more details about this lake.

There are now only six stands in operation, as follows: 'Parker Stand,' at the southeast corner; Bog Point, at the southwest corner; French's Shore, just north of Bog Point; Arab Stand, about midway of the west shore; Pout Rock, just north of the Arab, and 'Long Shore,' at the northwest

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corner of the lake. Bog Point, Parker's, and the Arab Stand are the three best: French's Shore and others not so good.

Of late years about 150 geese and 400 to 500 ducks are shot around this lake. Bog Point is owned by E. H. Crossman, of East Bridgewater. They got 33 geese (only) in 1927 and 118 ducks, a poor year.

French's Shore is run by Charles R. Bond, of 135 Weymouth Street, Holbrook. They got a few ducks, 55, in 1927.

The Arab Stand is owned by Kenneth L. Davis, of 261 Randolph Street, South Weymouth. In 1925, they got 75 geese and 125 ducks. In 1927, no geese and only 97 ducks.

The Pout Rock Club gets a good many birds (John Marini, of West Quincy). In 1925, 44 geese and 103 ducks; using 84 live geese and 120 ducks. In 1927, 22 geese and 81 ducks.

There is evidence of some pretty serious 'pond wars' here now between various stands.

The Nix Point Gunning Stand (where?), with John J. Santry, of South Weymouth, reporting, got 60 geese and 94 ducks in 1927. They use 81 live geese and 95 ducks, besides a large rig of 90-odd wooden decoys.

The Long Point or 'Long Shore' Gunning Stand is run by William Swift, of 341 Randolph Street, South Weymouth. It gets a few birds only.

### *Shepard Meadows Gunning Stand, South Braintree*

Mr. F. E. Wentworth, of 26 Liberty Street, South Braintree, reports on a stand, but says it is not in operation any longer.

### *Broad Meadow, Randolph, Stetson's Stand*

Willie M. Stetson and five others of Randolph operate a stand on the Broad Meadow, using a large number of live goose decoys, and ducks also. They reported 31 geese and 53 ducks in 1925. In 1926, 35 ducks, but no geese.

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### *Cranberry Pond, South Braintree*

33 acres

#### *Cranberry Pond Gunning Club*

Most of the land around this pond is owned by J. M. Cutting, of Grove Street, South Braintree, Massachusetts. The caretaker, Mr. Sanford A. W. Whiting, of 101 Liberty Street, South Braintree, guns there. His report for 1925 was 19 geese and 21 ducks, and this he says is the smallest number of ducks of any year that he knows about.

In 1926, only 7 ducks were shot here, and Mr. Whiting says that he is now so bothered by 'young men' who know nothing about shooting that he cannot do much.

### *Great Pond, Braintree*

204 acres

There are two pumping stations on this pond besides large ice houses. The road runs very close to the west shore. The stand on the east shore, 'Old Boston Stand,' is now abandoned and only two blinds are running, one on the south and one on the west shore. The west shore blind is very close to the highway. The water here is beautifully clear. This pond is in a good situation for catching a flight, but it appears that not many fowl are shot here in recent years. I know nothing of the old history.

The three stands on this pond are as follows: The Milbrainquinn Gun Club, Old Boston Stand(?) (Francis E. Flaherty, of 144 Crescent Street, West Quincy), which did not operate in 1925-26; the Elite Gunning Stand, J. H. Rittenburg, 31 Parkton Road, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and the Kitchamakin Camp, Inc., W. J. Connell, Cochato Road, Braintree.

The Elite Club reports 15 to 18 geese and 27 ducks in 1925. They say this was a very poor season. They got 18 geese and 72 ducks in 1926. They use 30 to 35 live geese and 18 to 40 live ducks with 50 to 75 wooden blocks.

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The Kitchamakin Camp shot 32 geese in 1925, 16 in 1926, and 76 in 1927, and gets a small number of ducks, 30 to 35 (in 1927 about 87). They use 60 to 70 live geese and 30 to 40 live ducks.

### *Quincy Reservoir, Braintree*

This small pond has been gunned a good deal in times past and considerable numbers of geese and ducks have been shot there by Chester Dailey and others, so I was told by one of the gunners at the west shore stand on Braintree Great Pond. There is no stand there at present. One Otto Zavatore, of 363 Center Street, Quincy, is said to have gunned here a few years ago.

### *Ponkapoag Pond, Milton and Canton*

209 acres

This has been a wonderful duck pond for many years. Its west end is marshy and attractive to ducks, and wild celery and other duck foods are present. It was no uncommon thing for a considerable flock of Ruddies and Scaup to gather in this pond, even when it was being gunned with a stand on each side.

There is a fine view of Great Blue Hill from the old Cedar Lodge Club, midway of the south shore. Ponkapoag was more famous for ducks than geese, although occasionally they had good goose years. There are no stands operating there now.

Laurence Horton, of Washington Street, Canton, Massachusetts, has given me some of the old history of this pond from his own knowledge and from that of Charles Bowman, now seventy-six years of age, who originally lived in Randolph. Mr. Bowman's father was Oliver Bowman, and one-armed Tom Jones was the brother of Charles Bowman's mother. The earliest history seems to be connected with John Jones and his son Tom Jones. In about 1850, John

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Jones and Elias Cole had a stand in back of the spot where Mr. Aldrich's 'Willow Point' Stand was built later. These men gunned mornings and on good gunning days. They had a few duck decoys and several goose decoys.

It seems that Tom Jones, he of the one arm, whom I remember at the Cedar Lodge Club when I was in school in the nineties, turned his father out of that first stand and with Oliver Bowman built a house there. They lived there during good gunning weather and made boots, as the early stand gunners mostly did during spare hours. They had live duck decoys and quite a few goose decoys. This must have been before the Civil War, for Tom Jones and Oliver Bowman both went to the war.

Charles Bowman does not remember any dates. He says that when he was nine years old they stood him up on a box in that stand and let him shoot at ducks with Tom Jones and his father.

John Jones, after he split away from his son Tom, built a stand on a heap of rocks out in the pond and went to it in a boat, but this appears to have been a dismal failure, as his live decoys got the habit of going to his son's stand. Charles Bowman remembers whole express-wagon loads of ducks which he took to the train at Randolph and shipped to a man named Dunbar in the Quincy Market.

Although he has no figures to fall back upon, Mr. Bowman thinks that 700 or 800 birds were shot from that stand in a season. Some of the other people who either ran this stand on their own or gunned for Tom Jones were Austin Thayer, Charles Wales, James Holbrook.

Mr. Bowman remembers that there were several stands on Loon Island, but that it never was considered a good location and the stands were usually burned, perhaps by accident, but more likely through spite.

What later became the Cedar Lodge Club on the south shore was apparently first gunned by Sim Wentworth, and there also they made boots and shoes in the early days. No

one seems to know how Tom Jones got possession of this stand, but later on it was made into the Cedar Lodge Club, which was operated for many years, until about 1911, with Jones as gunner. Mr. George C. Dickson, of Boston, William Butler, Paul Butler, and E. C. Hodges were members of this, probably the best-known gunning stand in Massachusetts. Tom Stevenson bought this land in 1912 and ran the stand two years. George Dickson ran it again in 1914, but since then it has been vacant.

As near as I can estimate, the average score at the Cedar Lodge Club was about 350 to 400 birds, including about 30 or 40 geese, but in 1912 and 1913, 101 and 106 geese were shot there respectively. It appears that Charles Wales also built a stand on the shore above the Cedar Lodge Club on land now owned by A. Hemenway, Jr., but it lasted only a year or two and then was burned.

On the north side of Ponkapoag, where the original Jones and Cole Stand stood, Mr. E. C. Curtis, once Mayor of Boston, gunned for a time; then Talbot Aldrich and friends. About 1910 or 1912, when the Metropolitan Park Department took over the land, the Aldrich stand was moved to the Cedar Swamp at the northwest corner of the pond. This was called Bog Point and operated through the fall of 1927.

*Old Willow Point Scores — Talbot Aldrich, Charles Aldrich  
and others*

1894: Total, 218, including 35 geese, 1 Wood-duck, 1 Mallard,  
1 Teal, 1 Gray Duck.

1897: Black Ducks, 157; geese, 29; Teal, 3; Widgeon (Scaup), 9;  
Butter-balls, 7. Total, 205.

Small team of geese and only 5 flyers. About 80 live decoy ducks. This season reckoned a very poor one. Strong opposition, of course, from Cedar Lodge Stand on west shore.

1898: As nearly as I can tell, 189 Black Ducks; 14 geese; 4 Mallards, and about 30 other birds. Total, about 235.

1899: Black Ducks, about 168; sundry, 32; geese, 0.

1900: Black Ducks, 139; sundry, about 20; geese, 0.

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1901: Total, 220 — geese, 23; Blacks, 195; 1 Canvas-back; 1 Mallard.

1903: Good Ducks, 188; geese, 2; Redheads, 2; besides sundry small fowl.

1904: Total, about 299, including 8 geese; 15 Mallards; 10 Blue-winged Teal; 2 Spoonbills; 5 Redheads.

1905: Total, about 172, including 36 geese.

1906: Total, 161, including 19 geese.

1907: Total, 251, including 23 geese; 6 Redheads; 3 Mallards.

1908: Records incomplete. Apparently not gunned through season. About 118 recorded, including 27 geese, 1 Redhead, etc.

1912: Records not complete. Total, about 99, including 23 geese, some 'gray ducks' (Pintail), and 1 Mallard.

1913: Total, 204, including 24 geese; 3 Blue-winged Teal; 1 Spoonbill; 4 or 5 Green-winged Teal, 1 Mallard, etc.

1915: Total, 154, including 55 geese.

During all this time Tom Jones across the pond was, of course, getting a great many ducks and geese. Scores not known. Willow Point was abandoned by Mr. Aldrich about 1912, when he moved to the Bog Point Stand at the north-west corner.

### *Bog Point, Ponkapoag — Scores*

1917: Total birds, 230 — geese, 29; Canvas-backs, 4 (2 on October 24, 2 on October 30); Blue-winged Teal, 3.

1918: Total, 237 — geese, 29; Pintails, 5; Redheads, 2.

1919: Total, 345 — geese, 55; Spoonbill, 1; Pintail, 1.

1920: Total, 420 — geese, 130; Mallards, 4; Pintails, 2.  
In month of November, 1920, 265 fowl shot which included 133 Black Ducks, 129 geese, and 3 small ducks.

1921: Total, 507 — geese, 180 (large flight October 17 to 25); Canvas-backs, 2 on November 4; Pintails, 5. By month as follows: September, 52 birds; October, 188; November, 263; December, 4. This is high year for the Aldrich stand. Tremendous flight of Blacks on November 23 and November 24.

1922: Total, 291 — geese, 30; Blacks, 225; small fowl, 36. Odd birds as follows: Mallard, 1; Pintail, 1; Baldpates, 7; Canvas-backs, 5; Redheads, 3.

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1923: Total, 234, including 61 geese and 2 otters!

1924: Total, 129, including 24 geese, 2 Pintails, and other small fowl.

1925: Total, 252, including 61 geese, 4 Canvas-backs, 3 gray ducks or Pintails.

1926: Total, 92, including 55 geese, 1 Mallard.

1927: Total, 81, including 30 geese, 2 Redheads, 3 Ruddies, 1 Pintail. (Both 1926 and 1927 were very slim years in Massachusetts.) All shooting ended at Ponkapoag on this year.

### *Houghton's Pond, Milton* 28 acres

I knew this little pond, a pretty sheet of water tucked away under Great Blue Hill, as far back as 1890 or 1891. Although it was quite a retired spot in those days, I do not remember ever seeing a duck blind there.

### *Reservoir Pond, Canton* 225 acres

Winthrop Packard tells me that this pond was originally a peat meadow, probably dammed by beavers at its outlet. The early colonists built the dam higher, and later came Paul Revere with his copper company and they built the present dam. So this is really an artificial pond.

There are two stands on the pond now. One on the south side, called the Birch Point Gunning Club, run by Fred B. Jones, of 28 Main Street, Brockton, and the other by Ernest A. Guild, of Canton. With the exception of these stands, there have not been within Mr. Packard's memory any others on this body of water.

The Birch Point Stand has been in operation since 1898. The blind is about 75 feet long and they use 75 ducks and 30 live geese. Their best bag was 150 ducks and 125 geese. They average about 100 ducks and 75 geese. Best year, 1924. They once got 24 Black Ducks with one discharge from three guns.

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Twenty-five years ago or more the Guild Stand used to be occupied the year round by Fred Lane, a Civil War veteran and former Maine lumberman. He did some shooting, Mr. Packard says, but his place was more of a social rendezvous than anything else. A bunch of cronies, old and young, used to drop in to see him and help him shoot, play poker, and consume more or less free liquor, as is the way of stand gunners then and now. Mr. Packard, doing free-lance newspaper work at the time, used to get good nature stories from among this gathering by dropping in for a day or an evening's chat.

As the water in this pond is drawn off for town use, it has often been very low of late years in the autumn.

The Birch Pond Club reports 42 geese and 105 ducks in 1925 and 56 geese and 83 ducks in 1926. In 1927, they got 48 geese and 76 ducks. They use 30 or 40 ducks with a large rig of wooden decoys.

The other blind run by the Guild family does not appear to report to the State. I have been in this blind and am under the impression that not many ducks are shot there now.

Another bit of history I got from Lawrence Horton, of Canton, who gunned so long for Talbot Aldrich at Ponkapoag. He finds only two years' records dealing with his shooting at Reservoir Pond. In 1889, he shot 219 ducks and geese, and in 1890, 155. In 1891, Joe Revere tells him they shot 325 birds, a large bag. (I do not know where this stand was.) Three hundred and fifty was about high line for this stand and 50 geese about the average.

Before 1889, C. N. Draper and Bradford Cobb each had a stand on the Reservoir Pond. Draper's stand was under the sand bank which the Hospital School owns now. Cobb's stand was under the big hill on property then owned by the Tilden Farm. He shot there forty or fifty years ago. Both these men worked during the day, but went to the pond mornings, and Cobb gunned on the moon at times.

*Massapoag Lake, Sharon*

This pond is over a mile long, and forms one of the chain of lakes that stretch away southwest from Ponkapoag down almost to Rhode Island. It is now very thickly built up with camps, sanatoria, and boarding-houses. Only one stand is operating, located at the southwest corner of the pond near the road. It is gunned by the Massapoag Gunning Club and reported by Forest E. Burnham, of 123 Walnut Street, Stoughton.

The club uses some 35 geese and 40 ducks, besides a large show of goose blocks. I have seen this stand, but have never been inside it.

They shot 45 geese and 80 ducks in 1927. They reported some 'short-necked' geese on this year. These 'short-necked' or 'white-bellied' geese are well known to Massachusetts gunners and are supposed to be a different or distinct race of Canada Geese. We sometimes took a few in late autumn at Oldham, and, although they certainly looked different in the flesh, I never could find one constant characteristic which would indicate that they deserved a separate classification. Nevertheless, I really believe that these 'short-necked' geese come to us from some breeding ground different from the bulk of our Canada Geese.

*Long Pond, Stoughton*

58 acres

*Flyaway Pond, Easton*

50 acres

These are artificial ponds and are often drawn down low. I do not think they have ever had permanent stands on them.

*Briggs's Pond, Sharon*

A small pond near the old Bay Road. At the upper end of this pond there has been a duck stand in operation for a num-

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ber of years, but apparently ducking was not the main object. I do not know how many birds they got.

Professor Oakes Ames bought out this stand and surrounding territory in 1928, and intends to deepen the pond and increase its area.

### *Wilbur Pond, Sharon and Easton*

114 acres

This pond is on the Oakes Ames estate. It has belonged to Professor Ames since about 1906. Before that time there were shooting-stands at three points; one on an island and two on the main shore.

Professor Ames tells me that there was a great deal of 'friction' among these stands; that there was in fact a good old-fashioned 'pond war' going on. The numbers of ducks shot were by no means an indication of what might have been taken.

After Professor Ames bought the land, he remodeled the stand on the Sharon shore, put a keeper there, and used it for one season only. He thinks they got about 139 ducks and 20 or 30 geese that year.

Since the Ames boys grew up, they have had stands set up at different places, but apparently have never had any very big seasons. In recent years the ducking has consisted in shooting ducks that may be jumped from a canoe while paddling through the 'upper regions.'

### *Fowl Meadows, Canton, McMann's Brook*

There used to be a small duck stand on a bend of the Neponset Meadows (Fowl Meadows), well above Green Lodge Station, back in my school days. I don't think many ducks were shot there, for there was too great an area of fine duck marsh out in front. This may be the same stand noted by the State as McMann's Brook, but I am not sure. This last stand is owned by Richard Curra, of 128 Walpole

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Street, Canton, Massachusetts. It has not been operating in recent years.

Mr. 'Cop' (Lawrence) Horton, of Ponkapoag, who has gunned all his life at Reservoir Pond and Ponkapoag, tells me that forty years ago 'Brad' Cobb and C. N. Draper gunned these Neponset Meadows, probably the same stand I remember about 1897. He described it as below the 'Horseshoe.' He does not know how many ducks they used to shoot there, but he recalls one terrific story that Cobb told. Cobb said that one day they shot so many ducks he had to go home and get his horse and tip-cart to carry them home. They were heaped so high on the cart that Draper walked behind the cart to pick up those that joggled off!

### *Sudbury and Concord Meadows*

This fine stretch of fresh-water meadows, first immortalized by Thoreau and ever since the haunt of ornithologists and sportsmen, is the largest area of inland marsh near Boston.

It has always been good ground for snipe, though few flights have enlivened it in recent years. No doubt from time to time many small stands have been built along the river or at pond holes, but these are beyond the scope of this inquiry. There are no regular permanent stands, so Dr. H. B. Bigelow tells me.

Clarence L. Hauthaway has a camp on the river near Carlisle which he visits a few times in the season and, especially early in the fall, gets a few Teal, Pintails, and Black Ducks.

### *Goose Pond, Lincoln and Concord*

This small lake, just northwest of the famous Walden Pond of Thoreau, used to have quite a pretentious stand on it, so I am informed. Nobody appears to have shot there regularly in some years.

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### *Norton Reservoir, in Norton and Mansfield*

508 acres

This large pond, nearly two miles long from north to south, appears to be an excellent place for ducks, and some geese are shot here, though it is a little too far west to catch the main flight. I am told that the lake is drawn down very low in some seasons for mill use.

Mr. Arthur R. Sharp, Jr., of Oakland Farm, Taunton, Massachusetts, sends in the following report on this stand. Mr. George H. Whiting, of Hyde Park, is also an owner. For 1925, 32 geese and approximately 320 ducks. Among the geese were two Barnacles, taken on December 12, very rare birds in the United States. Also three Canvas-backs and a few Mallards. A tremendous flight of geese was reported on December 22 after the live goose decoys were taken away.

In 1926, there was no gunner employed and the members shot only when they felt like it. They accounted for 6 geese and 120 ducks, which is good for this very unproductive season.

In 1927, Samuel C. Chapman shot a few ducks there, and C. H. Harvey reports 'about 50' ducks.

### *Lake Winnecunnet, East Norton*

326 acres

### *Winnecunnet Gun Club, Erik E. Erickson, Broadway, Raynham*

Mr. Erickson reported that for 1926 he was away from the 30th of September to the 25th of October. They shot 6 geese and 38 ducks. The stand was not running in 1925, nor in 1927.

### *Miramichi Pond, Wrentham and Foxborough (near Plainville)*

173 acres

The Miramichi Duck Club has a stand on this pond. It is reported by Elgie S. Robinson, of Mansfield. They use a

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large number of duck decoys (75 live and 30 wood). They shot 115 ducks in 1925; reported good flight the first part of the season. After the second week in November, very few fowl were seen.

In 1926, a very bad season, they got only 36 ducks. They lost over 30 decoy ducks ('stakers,' they call them) from hawks and owls. This was the great year of the Goshawk and Snow Owl flight. In 1927, they report only 53 ducks. Apparently they used only a very small rig this year.

### *Blackstone River, Grafton, Poverty Point Stand*

One stand reports from this region. It appears to be owned by Frank White, of Saundersville. For 1926, they report 7 geese and 76 ducks, using 10 live goose decoys and 11 ducks, besides about 27 wooden blocks.

### *Singletary Lake, Sutton and Millbury*

*356 acres*

There is a stand on this body of water called Singletary Duck Blind, owned by A. D. Windle and Dr. W. E. Denning. In 1927, they reported 36 geese and 79 ducks shot. They used 36 live geese and 20 live ducks. They did not report to the State apparently until this season (1927).

### *Fisher's Pond, Saundersville, Town of Grafton, Massachusetts*

#### *'Poverty Point Stand,' on Kitty's Island*

There is a small stand on this point owned by Frank E. White, of Saundersville, Massachusetts, which uses 8 live goose decoys and 10 ducks, besides 25 or 30 wooden blocks. They reported 20 ducks and no geese shot in the season of 1927.

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### *Laurel Lake, or Badluck Pond, Douglas*

*67 acres*

#### *Laurel Lake Gun Club*

Mr. Winfield A. Schuster, of East Douglas, Massachusetts, reports to the State for this club. This is a small pond about one and one half miles west of Douglas Pond, not far from Webster. They use 20 live geese and about 20 ducks, besides 100 odd wooden ducks. They report 30 geese and 50 ducks for the season of 1927.

### *The North River, Marshfield and Norwell*

Above Hanover Four Corners on the North River there is a large meadow. This runs a couple of miles up Herring Brook and there is a small stand on this brook which does not appear to render reports. This is a fine breeding region for Wood-ducks. The North River is now badly polluted by a rubber factory.

Below the Four Corners is a long stretch of brackish marsh beloved by Yellow-legs on the spring flight. There used to be a number of small stands all the way down to the railroad bridge in Marshfield.

In Marshfield, at Cut River, there was a stand operated by the Walton Lunch Company, of 1083 Washington Street, which appears to have been abandoned in 1925. The live decoys also were sold out.

### *South River, Marshfield*

At South River in Marshfield is a stand operated by E. L. Clapp; address, Ford Place, Greenbush. He used a small number of geese and ducks. In 1925, he reported 16 geese and 105 ducks (8 Brant this year). In 1926, 12 geese and 110 ducks. In 1927, 40 geese and 135 ducks were reported. This is a fine duck stand.

W. A. Howard of North Pembroke, reports on a small stand called 'Howard's,' on the South River, Marshfield,

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some distance above its mouth. There is a camp, and a small pond dug in the salt marsh. One year Fred Gardner thinks they got 12 geese. Not gunned regularly. They get 50 or 60 ducks there now in a season; perhaps more.

### *Scituate Marshes*

On the North and South River in Scituate is a camp called the Truants' Isle Gunning Camp. Mr. L. T. Sturtevant, of 230 Adams Street, Quincy, Massachusetts, writes that this camp has been rented to Mr. Robert E. Comins, of Wollaston, Massachusetts. No reports were rendered in 1925 or 1926. The camp has been there about fifteen years. It was started by Joseph Tolman, of Norwell, as a house-boat which he dragged up and used for a camp. He dug a pond on the south side of the upland, of two acres or so. He sold this to the Rice brothers and it has been sold since. A great many birds are seen here, but few are shot. This is now on the main mouth of the North River which broke through in 1898. A new stand now on the northwest side of the island is still running.

### *North and South River, Scituate*

Hatch's Stand, south of Truants' Isle, is run by Leon Hatch, of Humarock. He has gunned there about ten years. He uses about 75 live geese and some ducks. He is said to kill under 100 geese a year and a good number of ducks, how many I do not know. Hatch took in gunners to board at one time, and may still do so.

### *Scituate*

#### *Henderson's Isle*

This little island, near the present mouth of North River, washed away in the great storm of 1898, drowning two of the Henderson boys who were gunning there. They used to kill a good many ducks there, when they could shoot at night.

The Webster brothers, of Marshfield Hills, had a small

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camp near the new mouth of North River on one of the islands which were all destroyed when the new opening broke through in 1898. None of this marsh land is as good as it was, as there is too much tide there now. Before the new opening there was not more than a foot or so of tide and lots of fine duck and snipe meadows; nearly fresh-water. Turtles used to live in these meadows.

### *Nippenicket Pond, Bridgewater*

368 acres

*Baylies Stand, owned by Walter C. Baylies, of Boston*

In getting at the early history of this pond, I was fortunate in getting in touch with Joseph E. Bassett, now of Harrah, Yakima County, Washington. He shot at the 'Nip' for some thirty years. Many of the rarer specimens which he got are in the collection of Arthur C. Dyke, of Summer Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

Mr. Bassett writes me that the earliest live decoys were used by the Thayer brothers about 1857. Then about 1862 came Brooks and Damon from Abington. They moved the camp-house from Keith's Island to Staples Isle (called 'small' island now), where they stayed for fifteen years or more. They were first-class hunters, and from them Mr. Bassett learned much of the art of live decoy work. As to their score in these early years, Mr. Bassett thinks it might be one third more than the stands get there now, owing to the shortage of Western ducks in recent years, Pintails, Mallards, Widgeon, Teal, and others. This is the very point which I have attempted to show at various times. Black Ducks and geese have increased because their homes were not molested. Western-bred ducks have decreased, or else given up their flights to New England for some particular reason.

Mr. Bassett shot a King Eider at the 'Nip,' and many other uncommon ducks. He always lived on the shore of the lake until he went to California.

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In 1899, a Bridgewater Club hunted on Small Isle, and in 1900 the same club was on a point at the east side of the lake. At that time 50 geese and 200 ducks was a large score.

Mr. Harry P. Sturtevant, who runs the Baylies Stand, the only one at the lake now, has given me a very careful record of the numbers of birds shot there in recent years, beginning in 1909. The Baylies Stand was started on the Big Island, also at the north end. Drake and Sharpe gunned on the west shore and their score was better than that of Baylies.

From 1909 till 1916, there was a period of protracted 'pond warfare' which greatly reduced the shooting for all hands. In 1916, the two stands combined, and in 1919, Mr. Baylies purchased Mr. Sharpe's interest. Since then all has been peaceful.

Mr. Sturtevant's records are as follows:

1897: First year at Nippenicket Pond. H. P. Sturtevant on Small Island. 32 geese, 140 ducks. Four other stands on pond that captured about 200 ducks.

1898: H. P. Sturtevant and Joseph Bassett on Small Island and stand called the North End. Big November gale and no geese were taken. (250 ducks.)  
Pratt and Robinson Big Island, about 100 ducks.  
Hall boys on west shore, about 40 ducks.

1899: J. E. Bassett at north end took about 12 geese, 160 ducks. Same stands were running, but do not know the scores.

1900: No record.

1901: Sturtevant and Bassett on Big Island and North End. 36 geese, 247 ducks. About 40 live ducks and 25 goose decoys. Hall boys gunned on west shore.

1902  
1903  
1904 Bassett hunted North End, and Hall boys with Frank  
1905 Drake or Arthur Sharpe were running the West Shore  
1906 Stand. Bassett was the only real hunter and had it pretty  
1907 much to himself at this time. Scores not known.

1908

1909: Baylies, 31 geese, 179 ducks.

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1910: Baylies, 14 geese, 177 ducks.  
Sharpe, about 20 geese, 150 ducks.

1911: Baylies, 52 geese, 318 ducks.  
Sharpe, about the same.

1912: Baylies, 64 geese, 280 ducks.  
Sharpe, no records.

1913: Baylies, 32 geese, 353 ducks.  
Sharpe, no records.

1914: Baylies, 58 geese, 235 ducks.  
Sharpe, no records.

1915: Baylies, 11 geese, 149 ducks.  
Sharpe, no records.

1916: Baylies Stand on West Shore (present site),  
134 geese, 332 ducks.

1917: Baylies, 87 geese, 307 ducks.

1918: Baylies, 66 geese, 319 ducks.

1919: Baylies, 90 geese, 455 ducks.

1920: Baylies, 198 geese, 334 ducks.

1921: Baylies, 117 geese, 378 ducks.

1922: Baylies, 29 geese, 428 ducks.

1923: Baylies, 23 geese, 251 ducks.

1924: Baylies, 22 geese, 200 ducks.

1925: Baylies, 93 geese, 290 ducks.

1926: Baylies, 74 geese, 245 ducks.

1927: Baylies, 119 geese, 211 ducks.

Mr. Sturtevant took 2 Gadwalls in 1910, which he sent to Mr. Dyke, of Bridgewater; in 1917, a Ring-neck Duck besides a Brant. In 1919, 55 Scaups, unusual for this lake. In 1920, another lone Brant, while in 1922 and again in 1924 one Shoveler in each year.

He says, as did Bassett, that they used to take a number of Mallards, Redheads, and Teal. A few Teal now, but very few Mallards and Redheads. They still get a few Baldpates, Ruddies, and Coots.

The Baylies Stand is on the west shore about the middle of the pond opposite the large island. They use about 100 or more live geese. The land is low and marshy all along this

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shore and at the North End. It is privately held and free of cottages. There are a lot of houses at the south end and east side. This is one of the best stands in Massachusetts. Their greatest day was 69 geese and 1 Brant. Many of the neighbors come into the stand when geese are flying and enjoy an occasional shot.

### *Gushnee Pond, Raynham*

47 acres

*Robinson Stand, owned by W. H. Hoxie and H. Hall of Raynham*

This small pond is just south of Nippenicket Pond. The owners report for 1925, 2 geese and 125 ducks. For 1926, 14 geese and 40 ducks; 52 geese and 70 ducks in 1927. They use about 30 live geese, 40 ducks, and 40 to 50 wooden blocks. 'Never saw so few ducks as this fall,' reports Mr. Hoxie for 1926.

### *Cleveland's Pond, or Semloh Pond, North Abington*

*Upside-Down Club (George P. Manley, North Abington, Secretary)*

This narrow pond, between Brockton and Abington, was reported upon in 1926. The Club used 60 live geese and 65 ducks, besides about 70 wooden decoys. They shot 8 geese and 72 ducks in this very poor year of 1926; 18 geese and 32 ducks in 1927.

Another stand on this pond called the Hunkey Dory Gun Club (Lewis S. Loud, 11 Lord Avenue, Weymouth) reports for 1926 as follows: 14 geese and 70 ducks. They used 35 live geese and 50 live ducks, besides 65 wooden decoys. They say, 'We are still waiting for a season with a few good northeasters.'

A stand called West's, reported by Chester A. West, of Brookville, Massachusetts, reports for 1927, as follows: 7 geese and 60 odd ducks. Is this the same as the above stand?

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### *Sabatia or Sabachia (Scadding Pond) Lake, Taunton, 200 acres*

A. N. Doufler, of 32 Allan Street, Mansfield, reports that he has a small stand on Sabachia Lake in Taunton, where a few geese and ducks were killed in 1927.

### *Thirty-Acre Pond, Brockton*

There was a stand called the Walnut Club on this pond prior to 1925. Mr. E. F. Simmons writes that the city has taken the pond as part of a park system and shooting has been stopped.

I have no information as to what this club used to do.

### *Rehoboth Reservoir, Rehoboth*

117 acres

The Anawan Club own a strip of land all around this pond, which is about thirty acres in size. They have a membership of forty-five, a few of whom enjoy some shooting. No mention is made of any regular duck stand. Mr. George G. Baker, of Providence, is the secretary of this club.

### *Assonet Bay, Freetown*

#### *Millikin Stand, owned by Robert D. Millikin, North Dighton, Massachusetts*

This large bay is a tributary of the Taunton River, partly in Berkeley and partly in Freetown.

Apparently there is no attempt to decoy geese here. Mr. Millikin uses about 30 to 45 live ducks and a few wooden decoys. In 1925, he shot 115 ducks including some Scaups and a pair of Green-winged Teal. He calls this better than usual in recent years. In 1926, he reported 107 ducks, mostly 'native' Blacks, and says they never shot after eight o'clock in the morning. In 1927, no geese and 97 ducks. On the

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opening day they shot into a flock of Blue-winged Teal, 'the first I have ever seen in Assonet Bay.' Black Ducks, he adds, were as plentiful as ever in November and December.

### *The Middleboro Ponds, Lakeville, Massachusetts*

It is a very curious fact that these huge ponds, totaling something like 3830 acres, have never been famous for either ducks or geese. I cannot account for this except on the theory that there are just about so many birds and those that care to stop do so before they reach these great lakes. Also they are a little too far to the west and south to draw birds from the coast.

### *Assawompsett Pond (including Pocksha Pond), Lakeville and Middleboro*

*2656 acres*

It was never apparently famous for shooting. It is now part of the water system for Fall River and New Bedford, but boating and fishing are still allowed. It is rather closely built up to cottages.

If one passes along the road at the west shore in late November, he is likely to see a good number of Golden-eye Ducks and Scaups floating on this fine sheet of water. Only one stand is running to-day and this is at Jeremy's Point at the southeast corner near the entrance to Pocksha Pond. The land is leased by Gene Ashley. I talked to John Pennyman who was gunning there in 1928, and he told me something of the older days. There used to be a stand run by William Wright on Green Point at the northwest corner. Also Cudworth's about midway of the south shore; the Pawnee Stand under the sand bluffs on the northeast shore. In spite of the considerable number of diving ducks that come to this pond, few are shot and no large bags of Black Ducks or geese have been made here in recent years. Less than 100 to a stand would be a good guess. They were doing

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little there in 1928 in spite of a fine location and no opposition.

Nathan Pratt tells me that Mr. Hallett Leonard, of Middleboro, started the Pawnee Stand some forty years ago, and that William Kingman started Green Point about the same time. Jeremy's Point was opened up by Charles Haley, now dead, about thirty years ago.

### *Long Pond, Lakeville*

*33 acres*

A good deal built up, but many fine points and two attractive islands. No stand running there to-day. I was told the old gunners had died off or lost interest, which means, of course, that the pond has not proved good in recent years. There used to be a stand at the north end of Lewis Island (Gene Ashley?), and at least one other at a point on the northwest shore, besides one on Hemlock Point on the south shore. I could get no details myself. Jim Parkhurst, who has a farm which runs back to the northeast tip of the pond, might know something definite.

There is a report to the State for 1925 by F. E. Knowles, of 32 Prospect Street, Taunton, that his stand was not run (Knowles and Henry Stand) in 1925, 1926, or 1927. This is near the north end. Mr. Loud, of Weymouth, reported for the Hunkey Dory Club in 1925 that they shot 50 ducks there. 'A very poor season.'

Within recent years a man named Herbert A. Morton, of Taunton, had a small stand at the southerly end.

Mr. Nathan W. Pratt, of North Middleboro, long a State fish and game warden in that vicinity, has sent in a little more of the ancient history.

Mr. S. Delmar Dorr, a gunner at the pond fifty years ago, remembers a stand on the Big Island owned by a man named Duffy, of Boston, who employed as gunner one Sydney McCully, of Lakeville. This was a goose and duck stand and large scores are said to have been made there.

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During the same period a Bridgewater man, James C. Reed, had a goose and duck stand in 'Big Stone Cove.' With him were 'Pen' Poole and Eustis Sturtevant, of East Bridgewater, Lester Jordan, Mr. S. Delmar Dorr himself, a man named Lovell, of Bridgewater, and Charles Pierce, a colored cook. 'Large numbers' of geese and ducks were taken, but no exact figures are now available. Mr. Dorr recalled one day when he and Lester Jordan killed 65 ducks. Gunning memories of this sort are apt to appear, of course, much rosier in the retrospect, and such a score as 65 in one day was probably the record for a long period of time.

Mr. Dorr remembers that there was another stand in the old days owned by a man named Baker on the westerly shore.

### *Great Quittacas*

1128 acres

### *Little Quittacas*

*Lakeville, Middleboro, and Rochester*

No stands are running on these ponds to-day and the water boards of Fall River and New Bedford control most if not all the surrounding land. There is no reason to suppose that they were ever very good ponds, and if they were ever gunned regularly it must have been long ago. Eventually boating may be stopped on all these lakes, and in that case they will form an interesting sanctuary for water-fowl.

### *Elder's Pond (Reservoir)*

145 acres

### *Loon Pond*

30 acres

### *Lakeville*

There are no stands on these ponds to-day. I was told that none were allowed.

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### *Tispaquin Pond, Middleboro*

250 acres

#### *Gibbs's Stand*

There is a small camp in a pine grove at the extreme northwest corner of the pond on the farm of Andrew Gibbs. The stand is run by his sons Lester and Joe Gibbs, and this (1928) is the first year they have put out a big rig of decoys. They have 40 to 50 geese and two pens of flyers, besides a large team of ducks.

This stand has been gunned about fifteen years, but only in a small way. They do not get geese every year, but do well on ducks. The north end of the pond is swampy and the east shore still quite wild and pine-clad. There are some cottages and a Y.M.C.A. camp on the west shore, besides a large ice house.

An old abandoned stand can be seen on the southwest shore about midway. It was gunned about fifty years ago, so Andrew Gibbs told me, by Gene Damon, Billy Thompson, Nate Foster, Arthur Poole, and other Rockland men. It was given up a good many years ago at about the time the Gibbs Stand started. I do not know how many ducks they get here.

Apparently there was a stand (not running now) called the Dew Drop Inn, run by Charles B. Haley, of Middleboro, and others.

### *Wood's Pond, Middleboro*

41 acres

This small pond is now the scene of a cheap real estate development. I do not know whether it was ever gunned.

### *Oldham Pond, Pembroke*

232 acres

I am very fortunate in getting the Honorable A. J. Peters to write these notes on early gunning days at this famous

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goose pond. Mr. Peters's old home was on the north shore of the pond and there he spent his boyhood.

'The early history of the gunning around Oldham Pond depends upon the memory of two or three elderly people who do not agree as to which was the first shooting-stand at the pond. It is well established that the first shooting on the shore was in the southerly end of the pond on the strip of land between Oldham and Furnace Ponds and easterly of the outlet. During northeast storms coots (Scoters) were driven in from the ocean and were accustomed to fly from Oldham over this narrow strip of land into Furnace in such numbers as to attract shooters. These shooters erected small blinds and shot the birds as they passed.

'There is a tradition that there was shooting about 1850 from a small camp on the big island, but this is doubtful.

'The first gunning-stand at Oldham Pond, the existence of which seems definitely established, was located on the easterly shore at about the point which is now called Baker's Point (Oldham Goose Club). David Ayers Jocelyn, a school teacher, had a small building which overhung a canal, so-called, cut in the shore about large enough to contain a boat. He probably did not use live decoys then, but he shot there and studied there. This was used by Jocelyn about 1860. Shortly afterwards, a larger building was built there. This building was later moved around the pond by a number of yoke of oxen and located near the town division line.

'The first authentic stand where live ducks and geese were used as decoys was either on the mainland on Mr. James Otis Bonney's place, which was about halfway between Baker's Point and the old Beech Tree, or on the large island at its southeasterly point. The people who gunned there first were 'Gib' Bonney and Briggs Everson.

'Taylor's Point started a few years later. It was in operation in the early seventies and definitely established by 1872. Both duck and goose decoys were being used then. At the

end of the pond there was a small stand called Charlie Reed's, in which Reed shot from about 1880 to 1890.

'About 1883, Nathan White gunned for one year on the northerly side of the pond. He and some others then filled in a shoal place between that point and the nearest point of the island and moved a shanty onto it. This place was known as "The Flats," and the people gunned there with varied success for some years, shooting both ducks and geese. The "Flats" interfered somewhat with the shooting on the island. Formerly geese used to light at that end of the pond and the northerly point of the island was brushed up with a stand in it so that geese could be put out there. The people on the island thought that the shanty on the "Flats" frightened geese and kept flocks from lighting in the pond. The southwesterly point of the island also was made into a blind and a path was cut around the northerly and westerly sides of the island which connected all three points. In addition to these stands there were two small stands on the northwesterly side of the pond which were built about 1885 and gunned by the two McRoberts brothers.

"Hira Bill" Bates and Ben Poole gunned on the large island and later Flo Estes succeeded Poole as one of the owners there. "Hira Bill" Bates was a devoted sportsman. He improved and enlarged the island stand and was there a great deal alone with a dog named "Simon." As a younger man he was a devoted shooter of live pigeons and once won the New England championship.'

In 1887, the present stand at Baker's Point was built. A. J. Peters was shooting alone on the island at the time and remembers seeing the first trees cut down on Baker's Point.

Up to about 1885 it was the practice of all the gunners in the stands to make shoes in the shanties when they weren't gunning. The wooden blocks used at that time as decoys were anchored by a rope, the links of which were the loops formed by the sole trimmings. Mr. Peters can remember

very well when this was done. As sole trimmings became somewhat scarcer, grapevines were used and tied with sole trimmings to a wooden triangle on which the blocks were nailed. Leather was also used for strads for the legs of ducks and geese.

The shanties all had racks for guns placed next to the door. Guns belonging to several men would be kept there. In the eighties they were all muzzle loaders and mostly ten-gauge with a few eights. The breechloading guns were just coming in then.

Mr. Peters's earliest recollection of a stand at the pond was the remnant of one on the Bonney place consisting of old stakes and dead pine branches. The breastworks were made by filling in pine branches between upright sticks. This stand was abandoned, as he remembers it, about 1880 and the people had just moved over to the island.

In 1888, A. J. Peters made a stand on the James Otis Bonney place, where the old stand had been many years before, and shot a few Black Ducks there up to the early part of October. Before Baker's stand was made, the ducks, late in the fall, would bed along that shore, and there was also some 'coot' shooting, while Ruddy Ducks were quite common in the pond.

In a northeast storm in the eighties the coots (Scoters) would come into the pond in considerable flocks. They were not sufficient in numbers to warrant people shooting for them on the shore at the south end of the pond, as they did in earlier times, but they used to try to surround them in boats.

The people at the Flats were not usually on good terms with the rest of the gunners. The Flats shanty burned down once or twice, and it was intimated that some one with personal feeling had started the fires, and finally the gunning on the Flats was abandoned.

When I took over Baker's Point in 1905, 'Herb' Baker had all the shooting to himself, and I think there had been

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no other stand running for several years. Cottages were coming in, but they were not anything like as numerous as they are now. We built a high platform back of the camp to fly our goslings from and used a beach team of 30 or 40 geese. We had 40 or 50 goslings some years.

Alfred B. Gardner, of Accord, looked after the stand for me from 1905 to 1909 or 1910, and a better goose gunner I never saw. Afterwards he ran it with Waldo Turner.

About 1907 or 1908, somebody tried to get a bill passed in the State Legislature giving authority to fill in the shoal off in front of Taylor's Point. This was merely an attempt to control the shooting in the lower basin. The bill was easily killed in committee with the able assistance of the Honorable A. J. Peters, who knew every rock in that shoal.

I bought the old Baker's Stand, as well as the big island, in 1905, and a year or two later Taylor's Point and ran a stand until 1909, when Fred Gardner and Waldo Turner took it over under lease for Stone & Webster. A few years later, J. W. Farley bought it, and that group of men sold out to the present Oldham Pond Club in 1919. They have run the stand ever since. Most of the time there is very little opposition from other stands, although for several years after I took the stand, 'Herb' Baker had a small rig in front of his cottage at the southeast corner of the pond, and during one year Taylor Point was rigged for a last farewell trial. We beat them so badly they never tried it again. During the years 1905 to 1915 the following unusual birds were killed at the stand:

Mallards . . . . .	10
American Widgeon . . . . .	12
Gadwall (all taken November 13, 1913) . . . . .	4
Spoonbills . . . . .	2
Pintails . . . . .	5 or 6
Ring-neck Ducks . . . . .	2 or 3
Green-winged Teal . . . . .	4 or 5
Canvas-back . . . . .	1

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Redheads .....	2
Leach's Petrel .....	1

The biggest two-days' shoot on geese at Baker's Stand at Oldham yielded 77 birds. This was December 7 and 8, 1914. The poorest season was in 1922, when only 39 geese were taken. The best year was 1920, with 354 geese and 135 Black Ducks and 58 other birds, a total of 547.

I find among the Oldham Camp records the following shots which it is interesting to record. This does not mean that this number was killed on the first shot:

November 10, 1905: 14 geese from a large flock with several guns.

December 7, 1905: 14 out of 17 geese, 3 guns.

November 13, 1906: 12 out of 14 geese, 4 guns.

November 13, 1907: 11 Black Ducks out of 17, 3 guns.

November 27, 1908: was a great day with 55 geese shot. The following good shots were made on that day: 22 stopped out of 40 geese, 11 dead; 14 out of 14 geese, 5 guns shooting; 12 geese out of 15 (11 dead); 4 or 5 guns.

October 20, 1909: 12 geese out of 16.

November 29, 1909: 15 out of 15 with three guns.

November 30, 1910: 21 out of 26, several guns. On this same day they got 38 geese out of 38 in three different shots with three guns shooting.

November 4, 1911: 12 out of 12 geese.

November 18, 1911: was the banner day on ducks so far as I have been able to find out. On that day they shot 54 Black Ducks, 6 geese, and one Spoonbill, a total of 61. On this same day they made several remarkable shots. One of them, 14 out of 25 Black Ducks, another 13 out of 13 Black Ducks, and another 13 Black Ducks and 1 Shoveler; then 14 Black Ducks.

November 27, 1911: 22 geese were shot out of a flock of 28.

November 28, 1911: 16 out of 17 with several guns.

November 27-28-29, 1911: The best three days' running on geese were 91 geese and 6 ducks.

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November 28, 1913: 17 geese out of 20, with several guns.

December 23, 1913: 13 geese out of 28.

November 27, 1914: 25 geese out of 32.

December 7, 1914: 28 geese out of 70.

The following old scores were found written up on the door of the island camp, which was gunned for many years by 'Hira Bill' Bates. 'Hira' Bates kept a complete record of all his gunning on the island, but apparently all his books were lost except a couple of old copy-books written up in pencil covering the years 1885-86. These I have seen through the kindness of A. J. Peters. The interesting thing about these old scores from 1876 to 1897 is the comparatively small number of geese which were taken in the old days, fifty years or more ago. And yet we know that the island stand (Bates's) was gunned for all it was worth most of that time.

### OLD SCORES AT ISLAND CAMP (BATES'S STAND)

<i>Year</i>	<i>First Geese</i>	<i>Total</i>
1876.....	October 22	45
1877.....	October 21	30
1878.....	October 22	32
1879.....	October 22	44
1880.....	October 29	29
1882.....	November 6	31
1884.....	October 21	75
1885.....	November 2	74
1886.....	October 11	76
1887.....	November 6	44
1888.....	October 23	23
1889.....	October 18	63
1890.....	November 8	30
1891.....	November 1	32
1892.....	October 14	41
1893.....	October 19	70
1894.....	November 1	92
1895.....	October 12	81
1896.....	October 13	107
1897.....	October 19	60

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OLD SCORES AT 'BAKER'S CAMP,' EAST SHORE (LATER MY CAMP)  
FROM 1889 TO 1927

<i>Year</i>	<i>Geese</i>	<i>Black Ducks</i>	<i>Other Ducks</i>	
1889....	48			Bonney
1890....	55			Bonney
1891....	51			Baker
1892....	138			Hammond
1893....	5			Baker
1894....	54			Baker
1895....	58			Harcut
1896....	172	46	39 (coots)	Oldham Gun Club
1897....	151	40	63 (coots)	Oldham Gun Club
1898....	61	50		Oldham Gun Club
1899....	61	57		Oldham Gun Club
1900....	73	84		Oldham Gun Club
1901....	58	36		Oldham Gun Club
1902....	63	?		Weymouth Club
1903....	129	99		Oldham Pond Club
1904....	101	90 to 100		Oldham Pond Club
1905....	153	43	37	John C. Phillips
1906....	64	27	28	John C. Phillips
1907....	60	48	16	John C. Phillips
1908....	164	80	45	John C. Phillips
1909....	84	85	64	John C. Phillips
*1910....	113	83	33	John C. Phillips
*1911....	228	158	43	John C. Phillips
*1912....	185	121	29	{ Oldham Camp burned down and lost some of my best guns.
1913....	110	113	41	Fred Gardner and W. Turner
1914....	229	51	29	Fred Gardner and W. Turner
1915....	59	44	4	Fred Gardner and W. Turner
1916....	156	73	23	Sold to J. W. Farley and others

\* Leased to Furnace Pond Land and Trust Co., Stone & Webster.

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<i>Year</i>	<i>Geese</i>	<i>Black Ducks</i>	<i>Other Ducks</i>	
1917....	69	80	30	J. W. Farley and others
1918....	103	73	25	J. W. Farley and others
1919....	224	130	60	Sold to Sherman Adams, Gilbert Tollman and others
1920....	354	135	58	Sherman Adams, Gilbert Tollman and others
1921....	282	176	29	Oldham P. Goose Club
1922....	39	29	10	Oldham P. Goose Club
1923....	183	64	37	Oldham P. Goose Club
1924....	105	31	?	Oldham P. Goose Club
1925....	227	76	42	Oldham P. Goose Club
1926....	82	33	15	Oldham P. Goose Club
1927....	63	62	?	Oldham P. Goose Club

Other stands on pond in 1927, 29 geese, 50 ducks (Mallard Point Gun Club). This was recently started. The owner is W. C. Goodrich, of 128 Washington Street, Lynn: Oscar Hayden, gunner. This is just north of Bonney's Point at the edge of the old Peters place.

Oldham Pond is now greatly built up, and the wonder is that any birds come into it.

### *Furnace Pond, Pembroke*

103 acres

There used to be a small stand and camp on a point near the southeast corner of this pond (Haskell's). It never was a good stand. It was operated one year, while I was running the east shore stand at Oldham Pond, by Stone & Webster, of Boston. They did very little there; got a few 'left-over' geese from the larger pond and a very few ducks. They shot six Eider Ducks that year; very rare visitors inland. There does not appear to be any stand there to-day. All these

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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ponds are being completely spoiled by metropolitan development.

### *Big Sandy Pond, Pembroke*

113 acres

No stand here now, but it used to be gunned for geese, so Ote Foster told me, twenty years ago. It has been a reservoir for Rockland and Abington for a long time and shooting is not allowed.

### *Maquan Pond, Hanson*

45 acres

Apparently never has been gunned. Now built up with cottages. This is a flowed pond.

### *Factory Pond, or Wampetuck Pond, Hanson*

81 acres

This is an old flowed pond which is not gunned regularly now. Frank Baker and George Stetson gunned there from about 1907 to 1910 on the northwest shore on a small island reached by a short foot-bridge. I am told that thirty geese was about the most they ever got, and about the same on ducks. Very little shooting since.

Two stands report to the State. The Wampetuck Club, N. L. White, South Hanson, secretary, which got 10 geese and 16 ducks in 1927. Also the Fern Hill Gun Club, R. Dodge and F. Churchill, 70 Hendrick Street, Whitman, which reports 39 ducks and no geese for 1927.

### *Indian Head Pond, Hanson*

126 acres

Thomas's Camp on northwest shore, gunned about fifteen years, and never particularly good. Some years no geese shot there. Small rigs mostly.

In 1925, Mr. George Thomas rented his camp to 'Stough-

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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ton parties.' They gunned it only during November and shot a few geese and 20 ducks. In 1926, the stand was let to the Hanson Gunning Club (H. T. Clark, treasurer, South Hanson). They reported 11 geese and 50 ducks. They used 33 live geese and 30 live ducks with about 70 wooden decoys. In 1927, they got about 30 geese and 30 ducks, using a large rig.

The Indian Head Gun Club on east shore center (P. M. Nichols, of Winthrop) reported 44 geese and 6 ducks for 1927. This place has been gunned by local young men for many years with small success. Once in a while a few geese are shot here.

There may be another stand called the Cove Stand, gunned by C. J. Reid, of South Hanson.

### *Whitman Meadows, Whitman*

#### *Mallard Point Gunning Stand*

I do not know the exact location of this blind, which is a small one and reported by William F. Mullen, 29 Jenkins Avenue, Whitman, Massachusetts. Forty ducks were shot there in 1927. It is close to the town of Whitman.

### *South River Reservoir, Duxbury*

*35 acres*

This flowed basin, full of old stumps, ought to be a better duck pond than it is. It is a little small for geese. It had been gunned about seven years before 1928.

On the north shore the South River Gun Club has a large stand with 50 goose flyers and 20 or 30 for a beach team. Carl Caddy is the gunner there and the stand is run by F. P. Richardson, treasurer, of Hull. Their best year was 91 geese and about 130 Black Ducks. Their average is probably not over 50 or 60 geese and less than 100 ducks.

Another stand on the south shore, owned by Horace (or Wilbur) Randall, of Duxbury, does not do much. They get a few geese (left-overs) and a few ducks.

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### *Island Creek Pond, Duxbury*

*72 acres*

Built up with picnic grounds, camps, and dance-halls. I could see no signs of old blinds there in 1928, but the State has some information that a man named C. C. Cushing, of Duxbury, used to gun there.

### *Silver Lake, Pembroke and Halifax*

*644 acres*

This fine body of water, lying only about six miles west of Kingston Bay, is easily the most noted goose lake in the State. There have been several stands on it for many years; Arnold's on Widgeon Point being the best known. Silver Lake is two miles long from northwest to southeast and over one half mile wide. Here the decoying of migrating geese by the use of flyers first reached its perfection. At Arnold's, on the west shore, I have seen 50 or 60 goslings released at the same time, setting up a racket of goose music impossible to realize unless one has been there. Forty or fifty years ago a stand of 20 geese was considered large, but when this stand (Arnold's) was in its heyday between 300 and 400 were in use!

At Widgeon Point (Arnold's) they still use around 150 live geese, besides 150 blocks and 40 or 50 ducks, although ducks are an afterthought. It is not easy to decoy shy Black Ducks to a beach covered with noisy geese.

I do not know the greatest bag ever made at this stand, but 84 were shot in one day in 1921, and 250 to 300 in a good year is not uncommon. They got about 400 at this stand in 1896 or 1897. In 1925, Robert Schindler, the gunner, reports 231 geese and 81 ducks, and the next year, 107 geese and 80 ducks; certainly this last was a very poor bag. In 1927, 108 geese and 110 ducks. The stand is now owned by the Reverend P. DeMille, of Boston.

Long Point on the east shore in Pembroke is owned by

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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R. M. Chaplin, of Kingston (in 1927, E. L. Maglathlyn), and gunned by E. L. Maglathlyn, also of Kingston. Later by John Blakeman, of Bryantville. In 1925, they shot 107 geese and 125 ducks, using 150 live goose decoys and a large rig of live ducks and blocks. In 1926, 76 geese and 60 ducks. This last was accounted a very poor season — 'not many geese seen. Plenty of duck in the Bay, but did not show up here.' In 1927, only 37 geese.

When Farrar gunned this stand, on a year when Widgeon Point was closed, they got very nearly 400 geese. This was high line and was in 1920 or 1921.

Dan Dewy for a number of years has gunned on a small scale on a point very close to Long Point, but has never done much while Long Point was operating. I believe he leased Long Point one or two years.

Dubby Point, also on the Halifax side, is run by Arthur B. Reed, of 443 Adams Street, North Abington, and owned by John Hockridge, of Boston. In 1925, with a rig of 130 live geese, they shot 165 geese and 58 ducks. The next year, 67 geese and 30 ducks (very poor years; few young geese, so they say). In 1927, only 31 geese and 25 ducks.

The Flax Water Stand, on the west shore opposite Dubby Point, is reported by William E. Thayer, of Bryantville. They shot 36 geese and 44 ducks in 1925; 45 geese and 60 ducks in 1926; and 14 geese and 45 ducks in 1927.

Five hundred to 700 geese would be a fair estimate for this lake on a good year and about 1000 have been taken, but there are too many stands there now.

Within a few years a new stand has been opened at the south end of the lake (Arthur F. Wright, of Silver Lake West). It is called Wright's or Snake Point. They have done well on ducks, but not much on geese.

Close to Widgeon Point and south of it is now the Cutty-hunk Gunning Stand, reported by George F. Lane, of Silver Lake. This is an old stand. They get a good many ducks, 94 in 1927, but not many geese.

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In 1928, the newest stand was opened by Fred Gardner and Gordon Mann, of Rockland, at the northeast corner of the lake. They did not seem to be doing anything when I visited their place in November. They had 30 or 40 goose decoys.

Here is a little old history. Bill Gulliver gunned at Gunner's Point, a very short distance north of Widgeon Point, more than fifty years ago. Monroe gunned there about forty years ago. It was closed later when they consolidated.

I do not know when Tom Arnold started to gun Widgeon Point on a large scale. William Cross, of Brockton, took over from Arnold about 1915, and ran the place until he died in 1919 or 1920.

The very first stand that 'Herb' Everson, of Bryantville, ever remembers was at the 'Flax Watering' when Ellis Thayer and the Powers boys from Monponsett gunned with three or four geese. It seems that most of the older duck stands were in the coves, seldom on the points.

Fred Josselyn, Charlie Simmons, and the Bonnie boys started the stand at Dubby Point at the time the pumping station was built. This pumping station is close to Loring's Point, where they moved from when they went to Dubby's.

As a boy Herb Everson went to Long Point Stand where Flo Estes and Ford gunned. This is all of forty-five years ago.

Cuddy Point, south of Widgeon, was considered the best place for ducks on the lake. They used to average about 200 a season (Black Ducks) and did not bother with geese when Arnold ran Widgeon Point.

### *Brader's Pond or Stetson Pond, Town of Pembroke*

Willie N. Stetson, of North Street, Randolph, reports a stand on this pond where 20 geese and 90 ducks were shot in 1927. They use 40 live geese and 25 live ducks. I cannot find this pond on my map.

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### *Monponsett Pond, Halifax*

756 acres

This large sheet of water is divided into two parts by the highway. The east lake was never of very much account and seldom gunned.

Charles S. Cook, seventy-three years old in 1927, and at that time gunner for H. P. McKean at Pod's Isle, Essex, has gunned for over fifty years and tells me something about the old times on Monponsett. On the east shore was a blind called the 'Sugar-Loaf Blind'; in early days it was gunned by Nash and Loud, of Abington; before 1878. It was good for 75 to 100 ducks and 50 or so geese. More geese in spring than in the autumn.

Opposite this on the west shore is Orchard Point gunned at least for fifty to seventy-five years, probably more than that. They used to make shoes in this camp and they had a fine rig of decoys and a good blind. Mr. Cook connects the names of Henry Sears, George Hobart, Marcus Perry, Edgar Pratt, and Darius Holmes with this stand. It averaged 100 to 150 geese and 100 to 200 ducks. This stand has been closed most of the time since about 1912, though open a couple of times since then for short periods. The land is owned by the Y.M.C.A. of Boston, and the north side of the lake is now well built up.

Charles Cook tells me that Gus Tower was the first man at Monponsett to fly decoy geese. He used to take his own goslings down to the pond when the wild geese came in. This was seventy years ago or more. But before this he used to have several 'booths' around the pond and when the geese came in he would take his old mated pair down to the booth nearest to the wild flock. He would hang onto one and throw the other one out, then wait till the geese swam in near enough to shoot. One day he got an idea that he could make his decoy goose more attractive by tying a red handkerchief around his or her neck. So he did this, but the unfortunate

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bird got its foot caught in the handkerchief and was so muddled up that it nearly drowned. Gus had to row out and pick this goose up, at the same time losing a good shot.

There seems to be no gunning on this lake to-day, except a stand called 'Whale's Back,' owned by B. Currier, of Brookline, Massachusetts (75 Park Street), and reported by Austin T. Parris, of Bridgewater. They shot 24 geese and 71 ducks in 1927, using a rig of 60 live geese and 70 live ducks, besides 60 'blocks.'

In 1927, the 'Pitch Pine Gunning Stand' reported to the State, through John Taylor, of Monponsett, that they got 51 geese, 62 Black Ducks, 25 Ruddies, besides a few Widgeon (Scaups?) and Whistlers. They used 120 live geese and 90 goose woods, besides a large team of ducks.

Where is Thrasher's Isle Gunning Stand run by W. Thayer and others?

When I was in college, Moritz Schindler's goose stand on Sugar-Loaf Point, east side of Monponsett, was often visited by students. I never went there. Schindler's son Robert now guns at Widgeon Point on Silver Lake.

Through Mr. Cook I have had a chance to look over some of the old records of 'Nashawannuck Camp' (Stony Bar). This was on the west side, near Orchard Point. These records go from 1902 to 1910, a period of nine years. The totals give only 748 ducks and 252 geese, or 83 ducks and 28 geese for an annual average. The best year yielded 152 ducks and 25 geese. The best goose year was 1907 with 63. All sorts of ducks are included in these figures.

Among the uncommon species of ducks I notice 27 Mallards (mostly in 1904), 9 Pintails, 1 Shoveler, 4 Blue-Winged Teal, 3 Green-winged Teal, 5 Canvas-backs, and 7 Redheads.

### *Robbins Pond, East Bridgewater*

158 acres

A few miles west of Monponsett is Robbins Pond, roughly circular in shape. The stand here on the west shore is owned

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by Harry B. Keith, 261 Plymouth Street, East Bridgewater. In 1925, the report shows 84 geese and 150 ducks. In 1926, 30 geese and 43 ducks.

In 1927, there is a report from Uran's Gunning Stand on Robbins and 'Private Pond.' They shot 39 geese and 140 ducks, using 100 live geese and 150 live ducks with a large rig of wooden decoys. The owners are the Agawam Reservoir Power and Irrigation Company.

George Desprance, of Bridgewater, apparently shoots there also from a small stand, and reports a few ducks, and he has also shot a little on one of the Uran Reservoirs.

The big flowage of the Agawam Company was made by throwing a dyke across the east side of Robbins Pond where the inlet came in, forming a huge body of water, some 400 (?) acres in extent. This is about four or five feet higher than Robbins Pond. The Uran Stand faces Robbins Pond and also the 'new' pond, so they can shoot either above or below the dyke. The flow of water through the sluiceway keeps a hole open in front of the Robbins Pond Goose Stand. The Keith Stand on the west shore is not now occupied and Mr. Keith shoots with Mr. Uran. The 'private' pond (or new pond) was flowed about 1924 and a good many Black Ducks and Wood-ducks now breed there. Some live in these flooded cedar swamps all the autumn.

### *Duxbury Beach and Duxbury Marsh*

This great bay is one of the best wild-fowling grounds on the coast of Massachusetts. Ducks are hard to decoy, as a rule, but many geese are shot from the several stands.

### *Brewer's Blind*

On Duxbury Beach, south of Williamson's old stand; owned by H. D. Brewer, of Worcester, who started the camp in 1915(?). The blind is 100 feet long and they have 100 live geese, 25 live ducks, and about 100 wooden decoys. Their largest score for a season was 348 geese and 100 ducks.

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Average season about 200 birds, and the poorest year, 1913, was 111. The biggest shot they ever made was 27 geese with four men shooting. Two White-fronted geese have been shot here. In 1925, they shot 221 geese and 150 ducks; in 1926, 136 geese, 50 ducks (one 'Blue' goose); in 1927, 248 geese and about 150 ducks.

### *Long Beach Gun Club (formerly Barney Williamson's)*

A half-mile north from Brewer's, just south of High Pines, is Barney Williamson's famous old camp. Williamson gunned there about forty years and used to kill close to 300 ducks some autumns, but in former years 50 geese used to be a good score. The present club is run by Arthur E. Dorr, of 3 Commercial Street, Boston. The blind is 150 feet long and they use about 150 live geese, 50 ducks, and 100 to 150 wooden decoys. This used to be a great duck stand, but ducks are wiser than they used to be twenty-five years ago. In 1927, they reported 170 geese and 125 ducks.

### *Hunt's Camp, Duxbury Bay (now Duxbury Beach Gun Club)*

Halfway between Duxbury Long Bridge and Barney Williamson's old camp (now Long Beach Gun Club) is Hunt's Camp. The owners are H. T. Hunt, C. A. Bateson, and C. C. Eaton. It was first gunned in 1890 by H. T. Hunt and his father, John H. Hunt. The blind is about 70 feet long and they keep a gunner there the whole fall, using about 140 geese, 50 ducks, and around 125 wooden blocks. Their great year was 1921, with a bag of 620 geese and 499 ducks. No other Massachusetts stand, so far as I know, has ever approached this score. Their biggest shot was 35 geese, with eight men shooting.

The average number of ducks and geese for the past seven or eight years is around 400. In the early days 50 geese was a good score. Their poorest year was in 1915, when they got only 149 birds. They shot one semi-albino Canada Goose here some years ago which Fred Gardner sent to me, and it is

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now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy in Cambridge. One Snow Goose has been shot here. In 1927, they shot 203 geese, 131 ducks. From their situation they get the best chance to show their flyers when geese are moving.

Half a mile north of the Long Bridge on the beach is a small camp regularly gunned by Frank Baker (who formerly lived at Oldham Pond). The blind is about 200 feet long, with 40 live geese and 15 ducks. In 1925 or 1926, they shot about 80 geese and 70 ducks. I know nothing about the old scores at this camp, which apparently does not report to the State. One Blue Goose was shot there two or three years ago.

### *Joe's Point or Dirty Spoon Camp*

Another stand owned by the Cushing brothers and R. P. Freeman, of South Duxbury, Massachusetts, gets some geese and a few ducks; 55 geese in 1927. I do not know exact location.

### *Addie Gun Club, Duxbury Bay: west end of Bay toward Green Harbor*

This stand was first gunned by Addie Dunn about 1900. Mr. Dunn is now caretaker and gunner at Oldham Pond. He sold his blind to the club in 1922. Dunn told me his best year was 69 geese and a 'good many' ducks. He never gunned it steadily. In recent years 152 geese has been 'high line.' The Addie Club is now run by William C. Paulson, treasurer, 15 State Street. In 1925, they reported 117 geese and 90 ducks ('most of our duck decoys were killed by foxes'). In 1926, only 44 geese and 69 ducks. In 1927, 147 geese and 'about 200' ducks.

There are a few other small stands about the bay, Tammett's Gunning Stand being one of them (2 geese, 26 ducks in 1927).

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### *Duxbury Marsh*

#### *O'Neil's*

A stand here, reported and owned by Christopher O'Neil, of Scituate, reports 150 ducks for 1927. They use no goose decoys. This stand is between the Peters's blind and the bridge.

#### *Gorham Peters Stand*

There is a fine duck blind here owned by Mr. G. G. Peters, of Boston, which has been operated for years. Mr. R. O. Webster, of Scituate, Massachusetts, is employed there as caretaker. The house is set on posts and has two rooms 8 x 15 feet each, besides a covered piazza 4½ feet wide, all around the camp, closed in with a thatch of sedge-grass and cedars. The camp is nearly surrounded by water, and they use about 75 wooden decoys, all within gunshot, besides 75 live birds.

The average bag for a season in the past twelve years has been about 300 Black Ducks and 75 other fowl, including a few Teal, Mallards, Pintails, and Scaups. They do not shoot any salt-water or sea-ducks. The best shot they have made, so I am informed through Mr. Webster, is 11 Blacks with two guns. The best for one-barrel is 9 Black Ducks out of a flock of 9. Before the Federal law closed the shooting on Plover and Yellow-legs, they did quite well, shooting about 100 of these birds in a season.

### *Duxbury Bay, Plymouth*

#### *Clark's Isle Goose Stand*

In the middle of Duxbury Bay lies Clark's Isle, famous as the spot where the Pilgrims landed to worship on the first Sunday they entered the harbor of Plymouth. On the north end of the island a goose stand was started by Arthur Train, Winthrop Winslow, Fisher Ames, and Dr. C. Rockwell Coffin, about 1908. During the first twelve years Dr. Coffin

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tells me that they considered 100 geese in a season a very good bag, but later, with bigger flights and more men to shoot, this was considered a small score. During the early days of this stand they shot many geese by keeping a team of decoys on the top of the island above the stand. Geese would alight up there when the bay was so rough that they would not drop on the water. This dry-land shooting was very interesting, as they used to jump up the geese before taking a shot.

The best record during the first twelve years was 328 geese (in 1911), at that time the best score for any stand on the bay. Since then it has been nearly doubled by Hunt's Blind. Dr. Coffin tells me of one November day, after a bad storm, standing with three other men in the north end of the blind and counting 5000 geese going by in flight. The wind was northeast and none stopped.

The average score since the stand started is about 150 geese, and the worst year was 1907, with only 22 geese.

Their team of goose decoys varies from 150 to 200 and they usually have 75 to 90 flyers and a beach team of 50 to 75 birds.

Although thousands of Black Ducks 'use' around Clark's Isle, it is a very difficult place to decoy them and few are shot.

In the old days Clark's Isle was a great feeding-place for Upland Plover, but few are seen there now.

Mr. Hobart Ames has recently sent me some further bits of information about Clark's Isle. It appears that the first stand was started in 1895 by William Gardener and his brother. The stand was washed out and destroyed in the bad storm of November, 1898.

In 1900, Gardener, with Lysander Sherman (now in charge of the State game farm at Marshfield), joined Alfred V. Freeman at Joe's Point (on the beach), and together they ran this place until 1905, when it was floated across the bay and set up on the site of Gardener's old stand near the present stand.

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In 1926, more Brant came into Duxbury Bay than the oldest inhabitant could remember. At one time there were 4000 to 5000. This is most unusual, as few Brant come to this bay as a rule.

On one year recently 8 Snow Geese came into this bay and stayed there one or two days, but would not decoy. A flock of swans is occasionally seen here, 22 being the largest number I ever heard of.

This island is said to have been granted by Governor Bradford to one of the Watson family as early as 1630 and most of it has remained in the hands of this family to the present day. Captain Nate Watson, famous as a yachting skipper, was a member of this family.

### *Kingston Bay, Duxbury, Massachusetts*

#### *Drew's Stand, Brick Hill Gun Club*

A large stand owned by this club reported by Lester R. Bates, of Bay Road, Duxbury, Massachusetts, uses about 60 live geese and 30 live ducks, besides 66 large canvas-goose blocks. In 1927, they reported 81 geese and 203 ducks for the season. I visited this stand in 1928. It is about midway of the northwest shore of the bay, partly built into a sand hill and only a short distance from the highway. Out in front is a large rock, a prominent landmark in this muddy bay. Southwest of it is an abandoned stand. This is a fine place for both geese and ducks. Kingston Bay is full of Black Ducks in November, but the shores are now so built up to cottages that they are very wise.

A man named Sanderson has a small duck stand in some cedar trees at the west corner of the bay. It has been there only a few years and I know nothing else about it.

There is a new thatched-house blind built on a point of marsh at the northeast corner of the bay which operates for ducks only. I do not know the owners.

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### *Plymouth Beach, Plymouth Harbor*

There have been several stands on this beach for a good many years. At present some of them are closed. Some very large bags of ducks have been credited to these stands, but it is to be feared that most of them were made at night. The day shooting here does not amount to much, as there is too much going on most of the time.

### *Opening Point Camp, Plymouth Harbor*

I do not know exactly where this stand is located, but think it is nearer the main land than Sunset Gun Club. It is owned by Harry A. Bradford, 4 Warren Avenue, Plymouth. In 1927, this stand reported 31 geese and 4 Brant, besides 174 ducks. They use 57 live geese and 66 live ducks, besides a few goose blocks. This is the most elaborate camp on Plymouth Beach and is said to be the oldest one.

### *Wall's Stand, or Sunset Gun Club, Plymouth Harbor*

Mr. Ralph A. Wall, of Plymouth, reports for 1927 that they shot 62 geese and 143 ducks. They use 26 live geese, 18 ducks, besides about 30 wooden ducks. They are located about twenty minutes' walk down the beach from Manter's Point. The Wall brothers have had this stand a good many years.

There are at least two other stands on this beach, probably more. A new one started this year (1928). Most of these stands are gunned irregularly or on week ends.

Mr. Herbert W. Bartlett, of Plymouth, who has gunned this beach since 1878, writes me that up to about 1900 all the shooting was done from seaweed blinds. It was mostly night shooting except during severe storms. After 1900 the primitive blinds began to give way to the more permanent stands and soon there appeared the combined dwelling house and blind.

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### *Snipatuit Pond, Rochester*

735 acres

This large lake is gunned by the Snipatuit Rod and Gun Club of Rochester (E. C. Barker, 591 South Station, Boston).

In 1898, it was opened by Ed. Small and Albert Reid. The blind on the northwest side of the lake is about 150 feet long, and they use around 90 live geese and 150 ducks, besides 125 wooden decoys. A gunner is employed for the whole season. The biggest year was 1925; but 121 geese were shot in 1924. The average number of birds shot is about 400. The poorest season was 1918. On November 28, 1925, sixteen flocks of geese were seen in one day, some large, some small. The largest shot ever made was 31 geese with six men shooting.

The Club reported 98 geese and 332 ducks in 1925, 27 geese and 250 ducks in 1926, and 85 geese and 212 ducks in 1927.

Another and smaller stand on the lake, owned by Harry A. and Henry E. Simonds, of 53 Franklin Street, South Braintree, reports a few ducks taken, 23 in 1927, but no geese.

The lake is not badly built up and is one of the best duck ponds left. A long marshy shore stretches away south of the present blind and they have a covered run leading out to a duck place some distance away. This and the Middleboro Lakes are apt to freeze rather early in spite of their large size.

### *Leonard's Pond, Rochester*

31 acres

### *Old Tuck Gunning Stand*

This small pond reports a stand owned by George E. Morse, of West Wareham. In 1927, Mr. Morse writes that the stand has not quite been completed, but he expects to do better another year. That year they shot only 16 ducks and used only 7 live ducks.

*Great Indian Pond, or Indian Pond, Kingston*

*62 acres*

My information about former days on this pond was gathered for me from Isaac Bourne by Mr. G. H. Priest, of Brockton. 'Ike' Bourne is about sixty-five years old (in 1927) and has gunned about all his life; his father before him. He is now gunner for the Duxbury Beach Gun Club.

This pond has always, apparently, been a famous one and it has had stands on it for many years. At one time there were four stands in operation, Turgenson and Bailey on the west, Holmes on the east, and Smith on the south. The latter stand is not operated now. There are no other houses on the pond except an ice house.

The first stand on Great Indian Pond was built by a man named Randall, who gunned there for a great many years. He died about 1917 under peculiar circumstances. He had a bunch of ducks on the beach and was counting 'one, two, three' for a shot, but before the count was completed he was seized with heart failure and, firing his gun, fell back dead.

'Ike' Bourne tells the following very interesting story about the first wild goose decoys: He says that about 1862 on some pond in Carver a pair of wild cripples were caught and used to decoy a flock of twelve wild geese into a pen. From this flock of twelve all of the present goose decoys in this vicinity are supposed to be descended. Bourne's father of the same name, Isaac, was one of the gunners who divided the original twelve geese.

This pond is directly west of Plymouth Harbor, and thousands of ducks fly over it daily to the fresh-water reservoir located a short distance away in a southerly direction (Randall's Reservoir). Formerly the ducks in this reservoir were protected and the water patrolled. Under these conditions many more birds came. The weather does not seem to make much difference about this pond, but there is a regular tidal flight when the ducks are 'tending' the reservoir.

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The maximum number of geese killed around the pond is about 150, but as many as 800 ducks have been shot in a season (all stands together). The number of ducks was always much greater there than the number of geese. The stand called Bailey's was formerly owned by a Brockton Club which has disbanded.

In 1925, the Indian Pond Club (Bailey's Stand, P. C. Rushton, Kingston) reported to the State that they shot 76 geese and 345 ducks. In 1927, this stand reported, through Marcus Beebe, 2nd, that they shot 341 ducks and 52 geese.

This club sold out to the Cook's Point Gun Club, of which Fred Taylor, of Hanover, is the gunner. I visited this stand in 1928. It is about the best duck blind to-day in Massachusetts. It is situated at the southwest corner of the pond with an old abandoned stand opposite to it. They use an enormous team of 100 to 200 ducks and have a lot of wooden 'blocks' on their beach, besides a big team of live ducks. This is one of the last ponds in the Plymouth region that gets a regular flight of ducks on the tide. Sometimes thousands are seen flying over. Great South Pond used to be like this. The Turgenson Stand (now Cooke's) is so situated on a long point at the northwest corner as to cause much trouble to Bailey's Stand on the same shore in case there happens to be a 'scrap' on.

A club on Holmes's Point, southeast shore (Holmes's Point Gun Club), operated in 1927 and shot 20 geese and 125 ducks with a rig of 20 geese and 35 ducks. This is owned by Alexander Holmes, Jr., and reported by Leo G. Malone, of Elm Street, Kingston.

### *Muddy Pond, Kingston*

*37 acres*

This pond is just southeast of the famous Indian Pond. All the land around it (some 1600 acres or more) is owned by Mr. D. W. Gurnett, of Gurnett & Co., 10 Post Office

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Square, Boston. The pond was very low when I saw it in 1928. The west basin is grassy. No shooting has been done there for several years, but a good many ducks collect there. An old camp and stand at the west end was gunned a good while before the present owner acquired the property. It is still standing.

Mr. Gurnett has a large bungalow and a fancy dairy farm on the south shore. Undoubtedly this could be made into a great duck pond by baiting.

Mr. Gurnett tells me that he began shooting there some fifteen years ago, coming to it from Long Point, Silver Lake. The land around the pond was owned by Benjamin Currier, of Brookline, and Ed. McLaughlin, of Silver Lake, now a very old man. The latter gunned there for Mr. Currier before Mr. Gurnett bought the land. The pond was good for about 150 to 200 ducks, but some years it nearly dries up. They used to get from three to five shots at geese in a season, and as many as 150 geese have been seen in the pond at one time.

The pond is a little too far east and south to catch the regular tidal flight to the Randall Reservoir, but in a north-east storm a lot of ducks fly across the pond from Kingston Bay. In 1928 thousands (?) of ducks got to 'tending' this pond early in the season.

I am told that one year only a puddle of water remained. A stand was carried out to this bit of water and over 90 ducks were shot in one day by two gunners!

### *Smelt Pond, Kingston*

*44 acres*

There are eight or nine summer camps around this lovely little lake to-day. Monk's Hill with its fire tower rises up near the west shore, a striking landmark.

There is a long point on the southwest shore with an abandoned camp and duck stand upon it. It is said to have been run by Paul Delano of Kingston.

Another stand near the outlet is not used any more. I was

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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told by boys that the cottage owners now stay so late in the fall that the pond is not quiet enough to gun on. This has happened on all the smaller ponds. Twenty years ago all these camps were empty after Labor Day. Now a good many have become permanent homes for people who have deserted the city.

This is, or was, one of the most beautiful of the smaller lakes of the Plymouth group. The surrounding region is very irregular in contour and the shores are lofty.

### *Billington Sea, Plymouth*

*269 acres*

This pond I have always been told was named for John Billington, who was the first man of the Plymouth Colony to be hanged. He shot a man for tampering with his trap line. He was an ancestor of mine and always had my liveliest sympathy.

There are still a couple of stands operating here. Branche's Point, east side, C. R. and C. C. Wood, and the Holmes Stand (I. W. Holmes, of Plymouth), on the east end of the island.

Branche's Point declared 13 geese and 103 ducks for 1925; 3 geese and 90 ducks in 1926, and 20 geese and 103 ducks in 1927.

The Holmes Stand reported 20 ducks for 1925, 20 for 1926, and 18 for 1927. I do not think either of these stands are 'tended' much during the day.

Billington Sea used to be a great duck pond, just as good as Great South, so I have been told. It is now almost entirely built up. It is the handsomest of all the Plymouth ponds.

### *Great South Pond, Plymouth*

*303 acres*

This fine lake, lying directly south of Plymouth Town, has two stands upon it.

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The East Side Club or Gunning Stand (James S. Clark and others) use about 30 to 70 live geese and 40 odd ducks, besides a fleet of goose and duck blocks. In 1925, they reported 41 geese and 84 ducks. In 1926, 41 geese and 88 ducks. In 1927, 58 geese and 58 ducks.

The West Side Camp (West Side Club?), owned by Edwin E. Farnham, of 200 Common Street, Belmont, Massachusetts, shot 68 geese and 183 ducks (including 1 Canvas-back) in 1925. The best recent year at this stand (1921) was nearly 500 birds, including about 170 geese. They average about 80 or 90 geese. They were winding up a good season when I visited the stand in November, 1928, having shot some 350 birds. They have a very large team of geese and a duck stand at the south end of the blind. Their gunner told me that the tidal flights to this pond stopped some twenty years ago. Some of the old market gunners are said to have shot as high as 1000 ducks here in a single season. It was probably once one of the very best ponds in the Cape region. There have been many different stands upon it. It is almost surrounded by cottages to-day, but is still just as good for geese as it ever was, perhaps better.

### *Little South Pond, Plymouth*

*70 acres*

Part of Plymouth water supply. A park here now and no stands.

### *West Pond, Plymouth*

*75 acres*

Southwest of Billington Sea, close to the road, lies West Pond. The water is very low there now (1928). There are seven or eight camps upon it. A high beach now separates the north and south ends of the pond.

A series of small grassy ponds make off from the southwest end of the lake and I saw a small duck stand there in 1928. I do not know who owns it or what they do there.

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*King's Pond, Plymouth*

*12 acres*

*Ellis Pond, Plymouth*

*11 acres*

No stands on these small ponds. Some cottages.

*Rocky Pond, Plymouth*

*49 acres*

About three camps; no stands.

*Curlew Pond, Plymouth*

About thirteen camps; no stands.

*Widgeon Pond, Plymouth*

No stand; several cottages.

*Boot Pond, Plymouth*

*45 acres*

There are numerous cottages on this fine pond to-day. It used to be gunned, but I am told it was never very good.

*Gunners' Exchange Pond, Plymouth*

*45 acres*

This pond has a beach across it which really forms two ponds. The southerly one now goes by a different name (Hoyt's?). The land around it is owned by E. V. Holmes and gunned by his nephews. A good rig on a nice sandy point is just operating this year for the first time (1928). Have had no luck. Two cottages only here.

*Sampson's Pond, Carver*

*310 acres*

This large sheet of water, over a mile long, lies a little to the west of the main groups of Plymouth ponds.

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There are two stands, the Nick's Point, owned by Charles Bishop *et al.* (191 Independence Avenue, Quincy), and the Sandy Shore Stand, owned by Arthur C. Atwood, of South Carver.

The Nick's Point Stand runs a large team of geese, 100 or more, and reported 76 geese and 115 ducks in 1925, 46 geese, and 78 ducks in 1926, and 32 geese and 95 ducks in 1927.

The Sandy Shore Stand reported 4 geese and 50 ducks in 1925; 1 goose and 54 ducks in 1926, and 28 geese and 36 ducks in 1927. Only a few live geese are used.

### *Wenham Pond, East Carver*

50 acres

The south shore of this pond is built up and an improved road runs close along it. Also there are auto service stations, farms, and a cranberry bog. There is a small stand on the island with a few geese on the beach. I did not learn anything about it, as the owners were not at home. It is not likely that they can do much there to-day.

### *Tihonet Pond, Wareham*

62 acres

The Tihonet Ponds were formed long ago by damming the Slug or Wankinko River. There were old ironworks here. The fishing on the Slug and Frog Foot is leased by the Tihonet Club.

A small stand called the Tihonet Gunning Stand (Gilbert R. Besse, of South Wareham, owner) operates here. This is really out of the line of flight to catch many ducks, as I know from long acquaintance with the East Wareham Ponds close by.

Two geese and 46 ducks were reported for 1925 and 38 ducks for 1926. In 1927, 35 ducks.

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### *Muddy or Glen Charlie Pond, Agawam River, Wareham*

124 acres (must be much larger now)

This large body of water, for many years lying empty except for a small swamp in the old Glen Charlie bottom, was again flowed by a very high dam about 1909. This sets back a flowage some two miles or more up to where my old trout-fishing camp stands at Eagle Hill.

When it was first flowed, a good many local ducks collected there and quite a flock of Wood-ducks, but I doubt if it attracts many flight ducks.

There is a stand called the Chipmunk Inn on a point at the northwest corner of the pond, owned by several men from East Wareham, James N. Besse, reporting.

They use no live geese and only a few ducks. They took 34 ducks in 1925, 46 ducks and 5 geese in 1926 (10 live geese used this year), and in 1927, 15 ducks. Mr. Besse was building a large goose stand on one of the islands off the west shore in 1928, which will have a very fine command of the large basin, looking east clear across to the White Isle Pond road. He tells me the place has really never been properly gunned. He expects to open this new blind in the autumn of 1928 and to tend it regularly.

### *The Eagle Hill Group of Ponds, Plymouth and Wareham*

Just west of the Agawam River is a group of nine or ten small ponds and a good many little 'frog' holes which often are dry. The largest of these are Long Pond, Five Mile, Charge, Fearings, Abner's, and Fawn. From time to time there have been small blinds and camps on some of these ponds, certainly on Abner's and Fearing's, but I do not believe much shooting could have been done there. As boys we used to hunt ducks all over this country, the 'barren grounds' as we called it, walking from pond to pond and crawling up to the 'duck holes.'

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### *The East Head Group of Ponds, Plymouth*

College, Three-Cornered, Bumps, and others now lie inside the State Forest Reservation and are sadly disfigured with small camps. The camp sites are leased out by the State.

### *White Isle Pond, Plymouth and Wareham*

408 acres

This was once about the finest sheet of water on the Cape. I think I have said as much for several other ponds. I fished and hunted all about it in the nineties when there were no camps except one, which was attractively situated on a high bluff on the big peninsula in the middle of the pond. Now it is well built up and a hideous real-estate development project has ruined all the western part. I doubt if it was ever much of a wild-fowl lake and there were no stands upon it until recently. Before the days of motors these ponds were a long way from the nearest town or improved road.

There is a stand now about the center of the west shore that is about 150 feet long, where they use about 60 or 70 live geese and a good team of ducks, besides about 100 block decoys. This is owned and reported by James Tirrell, of 661 Main Street, South Weymouth. They shot 60 geese and 30 ducks in 1925. In 1926, the stand was not operated, but in 1927, they got 27 geese and 11 ducks.

I am told that James Garland has also had a stand there for a couple of years.

### *Long Pond, Plymouth*

249 acres

This is a large body of water now very much built up to a summer colony. It must have been a fine goose pond at one time, but is not gunned much now. Elmer Raymond, who lives close by, runs a small blind about midway of the west shore. I saw him in the spring of 1928. He shoots a few geese, 20 to 25, and a few ducks. Apparently no large stand

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was ever operated here, which is curious, as it would seem to be well situated to catch geese crossing the base of the Cape.

### *Halfway Pond, Plymouth*

232 acres

The shores of this pond have been saved by a few large estates. The island is a lovely feature and is covered with a fine growth of old pine. Mr. G. Barker and L. B. R. Briggs have had a little stand at the southeast corner of the island for ten or twelve years. No gunner is employed and no intensive watch is kept. They get 20 or 30 geese and around 30 or 40 ducks in a season, so I am told.

### *Manomet Cranberry Bog Reservoir, Manomet*

194 acres

This stand is on the property of the Manomet Cranberry Company. On the old maps this is called Beaver Dam Pond. It has been changed a good deal by cranberry bogs. I believe Tom Arnold, of Silver Lake fame, used to gun there.

There is nobody in attendance at the stand, so Mr. C. L. Hauthaway tells me, but it is gunned irregularly by Sidney Holmes and Sam Blackmer. They look in there some part of every day after the berry-picking is over, but before that little gunning is attempted.

They shoot a few geese and ducks there every year. The first year it was really gunned with live decoys was 1907. Since then the scores are as follows, according to a letter from Sidney Holmes:

Year	Geese	Ducks
1907.....	19	70
1908.....	22	80
1909.....	27	60
1910.....	17	85
1911.....	25	25
1912.....	28	75

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<i>Year</i>	<i>Geese</i>	<i>Ducks</i>
1913.....	16	65
1914.....	37	45
1915.....	24	91
After this no shooting until 1921		
1921.....	21	60
1922.....	12	50
1923.....	15	27
1924.....	55	28
1925.....	37	37
1926.....	None	17
1927.....	21	45

Ducks usually mean Black Ducks. Other ducks are not counted on the score in most stands.

### *Big Sandy Pond, Plymouth*

*58 acres*

Big Sandy lies just east of White Isle Pond. We often used to paddle through it on our 'overland' canoe trips from Eagle Hill through White Island, Ezekals, and others of that group. It was a lonely bit of water in those days, and I don't remember seeing a stand on it.

A stand there now is owned by James N. Besse, of East Wareham, who kills a good many geese. He uses 60 to 100 live geese and 25 live ducks, besides 75 goose woods.

He got 79 geese and 25 ducks in 1925, but only 35 geese and 6 ducks in 1926. In 1927, he did better, with 46 geese and 5 ducks. He is now building a large stand on Glen or Muddy Pond in Wareham. He has recently been a good deal bothered by a stand across Big Sandy Pond run by a man named Faybian (?). I know nothing about this last stand.

### *Bloody Pond, Plymouth*

*115 acres*

There is a stand on the east shore facing the lower basin run by Messrs. Morton, Huntley, and Gooding of Plymouth.

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In former years, so Elmer Raymond tells me, it used to be a good duck pond. It has been regularly gunned only about three years, and before that there was no permanent stand there. Their highest score has been about 100 geese in a season. No reports to State. I am told there are a good many camps there now.

### *Savery Pond, Plymouth*

*20 acres*

This pond is close to Ship Bay Salt Pond, and does not appear to have a stand on it as near as I could tell as I drove by it in 1928.

### *Morey Hole Pond, Plymouth*

This small pond lies only a couple of miles back from the Bay Shore. It has been gunned for two seasons, 1926 and 1927, by B. T. Raymond, of Plymouth. Elmer Raymond tells me that previous to that no stand had ever been built there.

A surprisingly good score was made at this little pond, considering its very small size; some 50 geese and almost the same number of ducks each season.

### *Little Herring Pond, Plymouth*

*74 acres*

This pond is really the head of the famous Manomet trout stream. The stream, since the Cape Cod Canal was built, is now only a memory, and that whole part of the Cape is greatly changed. Between Little and Great Herring is a chain of large cranberry bogs.

There are two small stands on Little Herring, one owned by Francis H. Vann, of 277 Harvard Street, Wollaston, called the 'Eagles' Nest,' which is gunned a day or so each week, and another owned by E. C. Knight, of Sagamore. This is a good-sized rig on the west shore. A few geese and

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ducks are shot there. In 1927, the Knight Stand got 64 ducks and 16 geese, apparently a rather good score for that pond.

### *Note*

Island Pond (68 acres), Elbow Pond (16 acres), Little Sandy (11 acres), Rocky Pond (15 acres), and Long Duck Pond have no stands on them, so I am told by Elmer Raymond.

### *Great Herring Pond, Plymouth*

*378 acres*

This great sheet of water, lying close to the Bay Shore, is rather well built up along the east shore, and there are some camps on the west shore also. There is a goose stand on the west shore run by Eben S. S. Keith, of Sagamore, and Elliot H. Wefer, of 163 Elm Street, New Bedford, who have gunned there since about 1919. They still get a good many geese there, but not so many ducks. They use 75 to 100 live geese and a big raft (170) of goose blocks. This pond used not to be much good, but a lot of geese are shot there now. Charles Harding, of Bourne, is the gunner at the Keith Stand.

In 1925, they reported 227 geese and 65 ducks. In 1926, 70 geese (poorest season they ever had). In 1927, 94 geese and 60 ducks. Their best year recently ran close to 400 geese; 200 ducks is about high line. Too much boating for early shooting on ducks.

Wash Damon and Bart Bradford, of Rockland, started this blind about 1886, so Fred Gardner tells me.

The rig there now is very elaborate. The upper flying pens are on a very high bank and are released by electric switches in the camp.

Opposite on the east shore is a long point where there appears to be an old deserted stand. It has a fine location, but so far as I know has not been operated for a number of

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years. I believe this is known as Eagle Hill Point and was first gunned by William Eaton.

*Coonemossett or Coonemessett Pond, Falmouth,  
Hatchville, P.O.*

138 acres

There is a stand here owned by George W. St. Amant, of 141 Milk Street, Boston, whose gunner is Alston E. Baker, of East Falmouth. They get a few geese and ducks there, but apparently no very large bags. Mr. Baker reported 25 Canvas-backs in the pond on December 5, 1927.

*Ashumet Pond, Falmouth and Mashpee*

214 acres

There is no stand there now. Mr. G. W. St. Amant used to gun there, but not recently. Mr. St. Amant now guns at Coonemessett Pond.

*John's Pond, Mashpee*

243 acres

This was, until a year or two ago, a wild, isolated sheet of water. A disastrous blight has struck it in the shape of a cheap real-estate development. Its beauty will soon be a memory. It will be like White Island Pond in a short time.

There is a shooting camp on the west side of the pond run by Edmond Wright (John's Pond Gun Club), of 112 South Street, Boston. It is a large blind with 105 geese and 75 ducks and about 100 blocks. This has always been a splendid goose and duck pond and is probably to-day as good a place as any on the Cape.

In 1925, they reported 146 geese and 221 ducks. In 1926, 59 geese and 100 ducks; and in 1927, 70 geese and 125 ducks.

A small stand at the south end of the pond I know nothing about.

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### *Flat Pond, Mashpee*

acres (?)

A small pond close to the salt water in South Mashpee has had several blinds on it which are used irregularly. Sometimes a good many Scaup and a few Redheads get to 'tending' this pond. There are often a lot of birds in it in March and April (Scaups). I heard of a large bag of Scaups being shot there one day in the spring. I will mention no names!

### *Waquoit Bay, Falmouth*

There is a goose stand on the west side of this bay, which I have heard about through Tom Mingo and others. I do not know its exact location. This stand is called the 'Duck Head Inn' and is reported by Charles B. Fisher, the gunner of Waquoit, Massachusetts. It appears to be quite a large stand, using 56 live geese and 18 ducks, besides 40 to 45 wooden ducks. They shot 71 geese and 46 ducks in 1927.

### *Snake Pond, Forestdale P.O., Sandwich*

83 acres

There is a stand here kept by Josiah C. Nye, of 249 Boylston Street, Brockton. He uses 30 to 40 geese and about 30 ducks, with a good many goose 'woods.' In 1925, he reported 59 geese and 17 ducks. In 1926, 51 geese and 15 ducks. In 1927, 30 geese and a few ducks.

### *Wakeby Pond, Mashpee Town*

316 acres

### *Mashpee Pond, Mashpee Town*

399 acres

This large body of water, almost bisected by a beautiful peninsula called Cataumet Neck, is a fairly good goose pond.

I am told that about 1910, Thomas H. Capelis, of Rockland, bought an acre of land on the southwest shore of Mash-

pee Pond and built a camp. The blind is about 100 feet long and he uses 50-odd geese, 35 live ducks and 75 'blocks.' Some one is at the stand most of the autumn. They reported 41 geese and 33 ducks in 1927. The owner now is Father Murphy on land formerly owned by Aunt 'Rosie' Sturgis, who died in 1928 at the age of ninety-eight years.

There is a camp on the northeast side now owned by the Shaw brothers, of Weymouth, Massachusetts. This stand was started about fifty years ago or more, and has been gunned most of the time ever since. Joe Lincoln, of Accord, gunned there for a couple of years about 1895-97, and at that time they used to get about 125 geese and 100-odd ducks. I have no information about scores there now. The stand and team of decoys is about like the Capelis Blind.

This east side stand was first tried out on Little Conomo Point by John Burrill. He also tried the Wakeby (north) side of the point, but found it no good. Then they moved to a cove on the northeast corner of Mashpee Lake and finally to the present east shore location. 'Nat' Arnold gunned this stand before the present club got it. It is said to be the best side for geese.

The shores of this pond are being rapidly built up and an improved road runs along near the west shore. There are some very attractive camps at the north end.

This is the source of the famous Mashpee Stream, now mostly owned by J. W. Farley and others.

Mashpee and Wakeby Lakes were greatly appreciated by Grover Cleveland and Joe Jefferson. They used to put up at the little hotel in Mashpee when it was kept by Mr. and Mrs. Holmes. At this time Charles Jefferson bought three tiny islands in Wakeby and they were named in imitation of other place names in the neighborhood, Cometoit, Getoffit, and Stayonit.

In George Watson Gilder's account of his friendship with Cleveland there is mention of many fishing picnics in and about Wakeby, of day trips to Peters's Pond, just north of

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Wakeby, and of voyages in a remarkable native-built steam-boat — a picture of this little side-wheeler is given opposite page 155 in Mr. Gilder's book.

### *Santuit Pond, Mashpee*

172 acres

There is an old abandoned stand on the southwest shore. It is said never to have done much.

I was told that Henry Locke, of Rockland, bought this old stand, but never gunned it.

A Harry Dutton, of Boston, was said to have gunned this pond, but did not do anything.

There appear to be no houses here except a large cranberry(?) shed on the west shore. Roads were cut around the west shore during the land boom of a few years ago.

### *Lawrence Pond, South Sandwich*

123 acres

This small pond out in the open pasture was never gunned until 1923 or 1924. A Mr. Bicknell, of Weymouth, went there with a team of about 40 geese and 30 ducks, on the west side, and did well two years. He took about 130 geese and around 100 ducks each year. Then in 1926 (?) two other small stands started up, and I was told nobody was getting anything.

I visited the pond in 1928. Only the west shore stand was operating and they had shot over 100 geese, a large bag for such a poor goose year as that was.

There was also an abandoned stand close to the road on the east shore. There is a good deal of open country around this pond with a number of old farmhouses and some camps. One of these empty stands must be the Lawrence Pond Gunning Stand, formerly run by Lewis W. Smith, of North Falmouth.

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### *Spectacle Pond, South Sandwich*

*95 acres*

This pond is just west of Lawrence Pond. There are a number of camps, but no stand. An island and beach nearly cut the pond into two separate bodies of water.

### *Mystic Lake, or Hamlin's Ponds, West Barnstable*

*134 acres*

This is a group of three ponds separated by beaches. The north and largest one is Mystic Lake; the next is called locally Run Pond, and the southerly one appears to be known as Grigson Pond.

At the southwest corner of Mystic Lake is the Tanampo Club, with A. W. Rollins, of Boston, as treasurer. They have a large bungalow on a high plateau back of the stand. They have been here about eight years. They shoot about 40 geese and around 100 ducks. They have a fairly large rig.

Johnny Burrill gunned on this west side eighteen or twenty years ago. He is said never to have made large bags, about 50 geese his best year. Then 'Lon' Brackett gunned a few years and gave it up.

Merrill Richards and Joshua Merrill gunned for a time on the beach between Mystic Lake and Run Pond, commanding both sides.

### *Run Pond, West Barnstable*

There appears to be no stand here now.

### *Grigson Pond, West Barnstable*

There is a stand near the middle of the west shore run by Merrill Richards and Joshua Merrill. They get a few geese, but no ducks to speak of. There is a big hen farm back of the stand. This is the most southerly of the three Hamlin ponds.

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### *Long Pond, West Barnstable*

70 acres

I was told that this pond had never been gunned. There are rather large private places at the south end and one can see the whole pond from the road.

### *Shubael Pond, West Barnstable*

56 acres

There are no stands. Many old farms and much open land; also some new summer places.

### *Lovell's Pond, or Flat Pond, West Barnstable*

54 acres

Johnny Bicknell has a stand here on the west shore. He gets a few ducks and twelve or fifteen geese.

### *Great Nine Mile Pond, or Wequakett (Chequaquett) Lake, Barnstable*

654 acres

Shoot Flying Hill, north of the pond, is the highest point of land on the Cape. From its top the early settlers used to shoot fowl as they came across, bound for the fresh water.

This pond has been gunned as far back as any one remembers. The shooting there has been immortalized in the little book, 'Scientific Duck Shooting in Eastern Waters,' by Russell Scudder Nye (1895).

The map of the lake made in 1896 shows a number of stands — Anable's Point of the Brockton Shooting Club (west); Coleman's Isle owned by A. J. Gardner; S. Marston's Shooting Lodge on Stony Point, east side, etc., etc.

The stand at Anable's Point is an old one. A Brockton Club moved their camp there in 1887 from one half mile south. This was purchased by Mr. Frank H. Briggs, of 10 High Street, Boston, in 1918. The blind is about 225 feet

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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long, and they use 65 geese, 55 ducks and 90 blocks. There is a keeper there the whole year. In 1921, they got 83 geese and 45 ducks, a large score for this stand. The average is about 50 geese and 40 ducks. Poorest year, 1923, with 30 geese and 24 ducks. In 1924, they got 13 geese out of 17 with four men shooting. In 1924, they saw a large number of Pintails; none in 1925 and 1926. In 1927, this club reported 48 geese and 47 ducks. This blind owns about sixteen acres of land. It was not gunned in 1928 when Tom Stevenson bought it. There are a few summer camps creeping in and a large hotel on the southwest side.

Stony Point is the only other blind now in operation. This is a magnificent location on a long point jutting out into the center of the pond. The present camp was started by 'Wash' Damon, of Rockland, many years ago and has been gunned by various clubs and individuals until Mr. W. H. Bicknell, of Weymouth, bought it about 1919. This is still a fine stand, and they get 300 to 400 birds, about half geese and half ducks. They use about 150 live goose decoys. 'Wash' Damon, Bartlett Bradford, and Eugene Damon, who ran the old stand, moved after this to Great Pond in Eastham. In 1925, Mr. Bicknell reports 185 geese and 100 ducks. In 1926, 85 geese and 102 ducks. In 1927, 133 geese and 130 ducks. In 1927, they shot 7 Gadwall ducks — a great rarity.

Charles Reilly, gunner at Stony Point, tells me that a great many coot (Scoters) still cross the Cape at this point and large numbers come into the pond. There is so much boating and fishing on the pond now that it is very difficult to get any ducks at all early in the season. Like many of the large lakes it is now only a goose proposition.

Coleman's Isle has been ably chronicled by Russell Scudder Nye in his little book, 'Scientific Duck Shooting in Eastern Waters.' (Independent Press, Falmouth, Massachusetts, 1895.) This describes in great detail the old days at Gardner's Stand at the end of Coleman's Isle, or rather Point, for it was an island only at high water. None of the old

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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scores, however, are given. This must have been a great duck stand, although very little was said about geese.

There is another small stand on the lake run by Elisha B. Bearse, of West Barnstable, that gets a few geese and ducks.

### *Hucken's Neck Pond, or Bourse's Pond, Barnstable*

10 acres

This is really part of Wequakett Lake, although nearly cut off from it.

A Mr. Hayes, of Boston, gunned there for twelve years or so. This is an old stand. A man named Longfellow also used to gun there.

### *Shallow Pond, Barnstable*

67 acres

This is directly west of the main Wequakett Lake.

There is a stand here on an island used by Dr. Benjamin Lewis, of Centerville. He has gunned there at least nine years and is said to get 75 to 100 ducks, a few geese, and a few smaller fowl. This stand has been gunned a good many years.

### *Hathaway Ponds, Barnstable*

16 acres

These are large, grassy ponds (?) lying close to the new road. I am not sure whether there is a stand here or not.

### *Steward's Pond, or Garrett's Pond, Barnstable*

29 acres

A small pond just north of Shoot Flying Hill. There is a small local stand here owned by a Barnstable boy named Manning, so I was told. He gets 'quite a few ducks' and had one flock of geese in the pond in 1928. Probably some 'coot' come to this pond.

*Scorton Creek, Sandwich*

A small basin back of the beach close to the mouth of Scorton Creek has been gunned by H. A. Torrey, Superintendent of the Sandwich State Game Farm, for several years. In 1927, he put a dyke across the outlet of this pond to hold the water up.

He uses a large team of geese and gets a few shots at geese and ducks. He told me that he captured here an entire family of wild geese, the old pair and five goslings, and afterwards used the young ones as flyers at his stand. This shows the strength of the parental ties in Canada Geese, for the first year at least.

*Horse Pond, or Big Sandy Pond, Yarmouth*

*30 acres*

This pond is said to have been gunned about twenty years. There is a small stand in use now on the south shore with a camp attached. It is owned by J. D. McFarland and Stewart (?), both of Hyannis. This is good for about 100 ducks. In 1928 they put out a goose rig for the first time. They are now using about 15 live geese and 20 or more goose 'woods.'

I was told that the first stand on the pond was built on the east shore by Freeman Henderson, but it was only 'tended' week-ends and holidays for twenty years or so.

Two or three summer camps around the shores have been brushed up to render them less conspicuous.

*Flax Pond or East Sandy Pond, Yarmouth*

*18 acres*

Never gunned, so I was informed. There is a large ice house on the south shore. Very close to this pond is a small pond known locally as J. Barnett's Pond (name not given on my map). There are no camps or stands on it.

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### *Wier or Gun-Rock Pond, Yarmouth acreage?*

An attractive pond with some beautiful little tupelo swamps along the south shore and a fine old colonial farmhouse on a hill at the west end.

At the southwest corner of the pond is a very small camp and a stand which I was told belonged to a Mr. Rodney Hall, of Whitman. I know nothing about the pond other than that it is reported to be a rather poor place for ducks. It seems as if it ought to be a good spot.

### *Follin's Salt Pond, Yarmouth 203 acres*

There is a stand here owned by William E. Cox, of Orleans, where they get some geese and ducks. They never killed any large number of geese here. They used to run this stand in connection with the hotel which Mr. Cox ran in Hyannis.

This stand has a fine situation at the southwest corner of the pond, near the outlet. There is some tide here and south of the stand the water hardly ever freezes. The camp is on a fine bluff some distance back of the stand, commanding a good view.

This stand has been gunned about fifteen years. They use 30 or 40 goose decoys and a lot of goose 'woods.' There is a report that one year they shot a great many birds here but usually the bags are not large.

A short distance west of Cox's is a stand just opened (1928) by Hannaford and Blanchard, of South Weymouth, a town which appears to be the home of many pond gunners. This is on the property of the Collins stock farm on which James Tirrell holds a lease.

The shores of the pond are very steep here and the camp is tucked away in a nicely sheltered spot some distance to the west. When I visited the stand about December 15,

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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1928, they had shot about 70 geese and over 100 ducks since November 1.

### *Swan Pond, South Yarmouth*

*87 acres*

This pond at the head of Parker River is said to have been gunned by Frank Wall eight or nine years ago. There is no stand there now and the place is not supposed to be much good for ducks. It has been built up to cottages recently, according to report.

### *Long Pond, South Yarmouth*

*55 acres*

There is no stand here.

### *Scargo Lake, Dennis*

*60 acres*

This small pond, near the shore of Cape Cod Bay, has a stand on it owned by Mr. J. B. Chase, of 19 Congress Street, Boston. He uses 21 live geese and 12 ducks, and in 1927 reported 23 geese and 29 ducks taken.

### *Run Pond, Dennis*

*20 acres*

There is a duck stand on this pond where E. W. Wheelwright, of Cohasset, reports 40 ducks shot in 1927. Edward B. Watson says that one year, when they baited, they shot about 60 ducks. The pond is not gunned regularly and only 20 or 30 are shot there in a season. The Bates brothers, of Cohasset, gun there some in December.

The water in this pond varies a good deal from year to year, and at one end there is a good place to bait when the water is right.

## SHOOTING-STANDS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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### *Duck Pond, or Grassy Pond, Dennis*

10 acres

A small stand here is owned by Frederick H. Gooch, of 9 Rockland Street, Taunton, Massachusetts, where a good many ducks are shot at times. The pond goes nearly dry during some seasons and is not over two or three acres in size. No goose decoys are used. The pond is carefully protected and some bait is used.

### *Kelley's Pond (salt)*

35 acres

This pond is on the Bass River and has no stand on it.

### *Swan Pond (salt)*

157 acres

Swan Pond, in South Dennis, has never had any permanent rigs on it, but is gunned a good deal from small temporary 'hides.' It forms the head of Swan Pond River.

### *Mill Pond, West Brewster*

346 acres

Camp Sans Souci on the south side is owned by John W. Olmstead, of 100 Milk Street, Boston. He uses 10 live geese and 30 ducks, and in 1925 shot 14 geese and 75 ducks. In 1926, a very poor year generally, he got 38 geese and 175 ducks, which is a good score. In 1927, 6 geese and 67 ducks. Charles S. Briggs, of Brewster, is caretaker there.

Dayton A. Webster has a stand on the south side and uses 100 geese and about 60 ducks. They are said to have fair shooting, but I know nothing more.

On the southwest side is a small stand run by a Mr. W. H. Graham, of New Haven, and Charles L. Johnson, of Providence, who use 20 live geese and about 40 ducks. I have no idea how many birds they get at this place. They report 32 geese and 80 ducks for the season 1927.

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There is a fourth blind on the north side which has only a few live decoys.

There are no other camps around the pond, but it is over-shot and everybody 'sore' on his neighbor. It used to be a very excellent duck pond, so I am told, perhaps second only to Cliff Pond, but the ducks now go where they are getting the corn. That is the story all over the Cape now.

Late in the season a good many Scaup, Ruddies, and Whistlers get to using this pond. I saw a very good show there in mid-December, 1928. There must be some good duck food in this pond.

*Walker's Pond (called Upper Mill Pond on maps),  
West Brewster*

93 acres

### *Kemah Lodge*

George W. Mitton, of 60 Burrough Street, Jamaica Plain, reports a stand on this pond, which is really the Upper Mill Pond. The stand, which is on the west side, uses 57 live geese and 48 live ducks, besides a large number of wooden ducks. In 1927, Mr. Mitton reported to the State 34 geese and 423 ducks. Mr. Otto Knudson has been the gunner there for about five years. This is a beautiful location, almost surrounded by water.

Another stand, the Queen Anne Gun Club (about twenty members), reports from the pond through John Condon, of Harwich. They shot 211 ducks in 1927. They use no goose decoys, but a team of 34 live ducks. This blind is on the east side.

As to the history of the pond, A. Elmer Crowell, of East Harwich, gives me the following. It is a natural food pond. They do bait there, but not so extensively as in some of the other ponds.

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It has been gunned for thirty years. The first boys to shoot there were 'Hezie' Cahoon and Enoch Walker. About fifteen (?) years ago E. H. Wefer, of New Bedford, and Eben Keith, of Sagamore, bought there and built a blind on the north side which is still running.

Crowell thinks there were at least 1000 ducks shot at this pond in 1927. In the old days half as many would be a very large score. Ducks get to 'tending' this pond very early in the season.

Charles Harding, who gunned this pond for a couple of years when Messrs. Keith and Wefer first opened up, told me the shooting that first year was really remarkable. They used no bait and very easily killed 600 to 700 birds without shooting all the time. After that there was more opposition and eventually these gentlemen moved to Great Herring Pond.

### *Slough Pond (Walker's Pond on the maps), East Brewster*

*29 acres*

This is the body of water directly west of the Kemah Lodge (Mitton) camp. There is no stand on it.

The other ponds of this little group, Pine Pond (14 acres), Elbow Pond (34 acres), and No Bottom Pond (28 acres), are without stands.

### *Griffith's Pond, Brewster*

*22 acres*

As far as known this pond was never gunned. I have never seen it. It lies to the west of the railroad line and north of Pleasant Lake (Long Pond).

### *Sheep Pond, Brewster*

*148 acres*

This considerable pond is just north of Pleasant Lake, on Long Pond. Cleon Crowell writes me that it has been gunned

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within five years. Also it has been 'corned' for ducks, but without success. They tried for geese there at the same time, but with no luck.

### *Long Pond, Pleasant Lake, Brewster and Harwich*

743 acres

This has been a famous shooting pond for many years. Previous to 1899, Elmer Crowell had a small stand on the shore near the east end. He ran it for many years and shot a lot of ducks there. I think he never used goose decoys. This must have been good for 200 to 250 ducks, I should guess.

Opposite on the north side was another famous camp called Greenland Point, which also did well. It has not been gunned in recent years.

Pico Point is a very showy location midway of the south shore. It has been closed for several years. This stand has been shot most of the time for fifty years; thirty years ago by Alfred Bassett, Elmer Crowell, Clement Cahoon, Thomas Arnold (of Silver Lake fame), Arthur Reed, and others until sold to Charles Hardy and Benjamin Hyde in 1915. It has lately been known as the Three Bears Club and there is a very comfortable house there. It is reported that Arnold shot about 200 geese and 250 ducks one year, but in past years 50 geese was considered a good score. Goose shooting has improved. The best score made by Hardy and Hyde was 125 geese and 250 ducks.

This stand was closed for several years, but opened in 1927 again, when they took 47 geese and 214 ducks. The owners are now F. Sprague, Carl Dennett, and C. A. Hardy. The property was leased to John T. Nightingale and others in 1927, with E. Gorham Nickerson as gunner.

On the northwest side under a high bluff is the Splendid Point, built by Mr. J. J. Storror and now owned by his son, J. J. Storror, Jr. The place was opened in 1923 or 1924 and several men are kept on the place the year round. The camp is high up overlooking the entire lake and is undoubtedly the

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finest site for a shooting camp in Massachusetts. They use 125 to 240 live geese and 100 to 200 ducks and ten dozen blocks, and bait the point for ducks every day. In 1924, they shot 314 ducks and 121 geese, and that is about the average. They could easily get more, as the shooting is done mostly when guests are at the camp.

There is now a small camp on Long Point on the southeast side, owned by H. H. Hunter, which is gunned for ducks part of the time. Also a stand called Hopkins's Camp owned by S. H. Hopkins, of Brewster, which gets some ducks and a few geese. There also was a stand called Harmony Point, which may be closed now.

A. E. Crowell tells me that Long Pond was first gunned by Urial Cahoon about sixty-five years ago. His stand was on Pico Point (Three Bears Club). 'Greenland' Blind was built and gunned by Abner Cahoon a few years later. 'Elmer' Crowell got control of this blind about fifty years ago and gunned it for thirty years or more. In those days 300 Black Ducks was considered a very good average season. To-day a great many more are shot, as the pond is baited and controlled by the two large stands.

Bang's Pond (181 acres) and Pleasant Lake or Hinckley's Pond (171 acres), both west of the railroad, are not gunned. The line touches their eastern shores.

### *Cliff Pond, Brewster 204 acres*

I have learned something of the old history of this famous pond through Elmer Crowell, Mr. H. L. Du Mont, and Mrs. Roland Nickerson.

Kiah Nickerson was the first man to use a permanent blind at this pond, and probably on the outer Cape. This was at least seventy-five years ago, and the remains of his old stand can still be traced on the south shore. Kiah is said to have been the first man to put live ducks on straps and start the science of decoying.

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Henry Hopkins, of Brewster, followed some fifty-five years ago. His blind was on a point on the south side under the 'pine hill,' the same site used by Kiah Nickerson years before.

Henry Hopkins has been immortalized by the ready pen of Hamblen Sears in 'Fur and Feather Tales' (1899), one of the best New England shooting sketches that I ever encountered. Mrs. Nickerson finally paid \$4700 for the Hopkins lot, which had cost just \$15.

George Dunham, of Orleans, gunned on the northeast side until Mr. Roland Nickerson bought up all the land around there. The land is still held by Mrs. Nickerson, who shoots herself. This old stand was under what is called the 'mountain.'

The shooting is much the same here now as it ever was, and no doubt great bags could be made here if baiting was done. It is probably the best natural pond on the outer Cape.

In the old days birds were easy to kill and shooting went on up to May. There used to be a fine stand on the neck between Cliff and Flax Pond, as birds used to go from one pond to the other. In recent years birds do not stop in Flax Pond after leaving Cliff.

Charles J. Eldredge, who is still alive, gunned many years with Dunham. Apparently the Dunham Stand was not on the best of terms with Henry Hopkins. Eldredge remembers one shot at Black Ducks that accounted for twenty-two with one gun. He says there were plenty of geese, but no way to decoy them in the old days.

What is known as West Shore, but in the old days as Riddle's Point, was, and still is considered the best stand. The westerly winds have shoaled the water on the east side of the lake where Dunham's Stand used to be and ducks will not approach that shore nearer than one hundred yards. Mr. Du Mont tells me that a few years ago he put a runner line down there, but the ducks simply would not come in

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over the white sand where the water was only two or three feet deep. This pond rises and falls naturally, as nearly all the true Cape ponds do, and some years the Nickerson Stand has to be built out as much as fifty yards to get the birds in range.

The main shooting here is, of course, from local 'tending' ducks that come across from Pleasant Bay, stopping in the pond to wash and drink fresh water and then going out to the Massachusetts Bay (westerly) side of the Cape.

The principal ducks here, of course, are Black Ducks, like all the eastern ponds, but nearly all the more uncommon ducks have also been shot. Mrs. Nickerson says she has seen Brant in this pond.

Captain Nelson Perry, of Brewster, is the gunner at the Nickerson Stand. He has shot there for about twenty years.

### *Little Cliff Pond, or Higgins's Pond, Brewster*

18 acres

Sometimes ducks get to tending this pond which lies close to Big Cliff on the east. Some fine shoots have been had in this well-protected sheet of water, which is now part of the Roland Nickerson estate. Kiah Nickerson gunned this pond at least seventy-five years ago. It does not seem to be used in recent years.

### *Flat Pond, Brewster*

40 acres

Close to Cliff Pond on the north. There are no stands here.

### *Race Pond, Brewster*

#### *Camp Barney*

I am not sure of the location of this pond on the map. It is said to be about a mile or more south of Cliff Pond. A small stand there is owned by J. W. Crowell, of Harwich,

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Charles Taylor, Barney Taylor, and Wm. N. Eldredge. They report 5 geese and 17 ducks taken there in 1927.

### *Baker's Pond, Brewster and Orleans*

*32 acres*

Mrs. C. M. Hinkle, of Osterville, Massachusetts, has a stand on this pond. A. H. Williams, of Orleans, is gunner there. They get a good many birds. In 1925, they reported 54 geese and 160 ducks; in 1926, no geese, but 125 ducks. In 1927, 21 geese and 65 ducks. They have a good rig of geese and ducks.

I am told that George Dunham was the first to build on Baker's Pond about forty years ago. This is a fine duck pond and I am informed that the average score is around 400 ducks.

### *Buck's Pond (or Walker's Pond), Harwich (not named on my map)*

*30 acres*

On the southwest side is a beautiful camp and stand owned by Herbert Winslow. Eli Rogers, of South Orleans, looks after the stand and is employed the year round. Mr. Winslow owns all land around this pond, which is only a small piece of water.

It has been gunned now since about 1919 by Mr. Winslow, and the average bag is about 300 ducks. In 1920, before the pond was baited, they got only about 75 ducks. Now the baited flocks that come there eat nearly a bag of corn each day. There are often 600 to 1000 or more ducks 'tending' this pond at one time. They come across from the north shore and many fly over Hawk's Nest Pond, making good shooting there too.

They shot 5 Ring-necks in October, 1922, one Canvas-back in 1924, and in 1925 they had a large flight of Pintails. There is also a mounted Shoveler in the camp.

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A. E. Crowell tells me this pond was gunned forty-five years ago by Vincent Bassett, his 'blind' being on the north side. The shooting was so poor that he gave it up in a few seasons and built a camp on Hawk's Nest Pond.

Twenty years ago a Mr. Osborne, of Boston, built a camp on Buck's Pond, and it changed hands again until finally Mr. Winslow bought it. I also heard that F. H. Briggs and others gunned there, but there were no large bags made until baiting came into use.

Directly west of Buck's Pond and separated only by a beach is John Joseph Pond (called Briggs's Pond on some maps), 17 acres. There are no stands here. To the east is a large grassy pond which goes dry in some seasons (called Eldredge's Pond on some maps), about 25 acres. The land around it is owned by Mr. Winslow and there is an attractive old farmhouse overlooking it on the north.

### *Hawk's Nest Pond, Harwich*

25 acres

This little pond never used to be considered any good at all, but since Buck's Pond has been baited and a flight established to it, the pond has come into its own and a great many ducks are shot there. It is a beautiful spot. I never saw it until 1928.

At the northeast corner on the beach between this pond and Kenney's Pond is the Nickerson stand. There are several members in this club of which Mr. Kakas, of Boston, is one. They are said to get around 200 ducks here.

On the west shore a very beautiful point is owned by a club (S. Bell, Charles Walcott, and E. W. Grew, of 40 Central Street). The camp is in the woods a little way back. I do not know how many ducks they get here, but it is the best-looking spot on the pond.

At the extreme southwest corner is a stand used at times by C. E. and J. A. Eldredge and others, of Chatham. Some baiting is done at this pond now. Few, if any geese are shot here.

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### *Walker's Pond (or Eldredge's Pond), Harwich*

acreage (?)

About 200 yards due west of Hawk's Nest Pond is a small pond by this name, not to be confused with Walker's Pond in Brewster.

There is a small stand at the northwest corner which I do not know anything about. I did not have time to go around the pond to visit it.

There is a cottage in an open field at the northeast corner of the pond opposite this little stand.

### *Briar Pond, Harwich*

acreage (?)

A swampy pond southwest of Walker's. Does not seem to have any stand on it at the present time.

### *Goose Pond, Chatham*

41 acres

Before the wireless station was put up, this used to be a very fair pond, good for about 200 ducks and 25 or 30 geese. It is said not to be so good now. Edson W. Bearse, of Brockton, shoots there part of the time with ten live geese and a few ducks. He gets a few birds still, but never guns it regularly, and never baited it. The stand is at the northeast corner of the pond.

It was first gunned in a regular way by a man named Gallagher, of East Boston, some eighteen years ago. He died and the land was sold to 'other parties,' who now own nearly all around the pond.

It seems as though this might be made into a good pond, as it lies between the east and south shores. Geese pass through that way every autumn in good flocks. The shores are very steep and in places mostly sand banks. There are no cottages here.

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### *Sulphur Springs, West Chatham*

This body of water, originally salt, but now fresh, lies close to the south shore. There is a stand at the southeast end, owned by a New York man named La Salle (?). He owns a few acres here. I am told that this was always accounted a very good place for ducks, and sometimes a few geese are shot there. I have never heard any actual figures for this place.

### *Pleasant Bay, Orleans*

#### *Higgins's Camp*

This camp is, I believe, on the outside of Hog Island in the middle of the bay, and it appears to be an excellent place both for geese and ducks. It is owned by Fred S. Higgins, of Orleans, Massachusetts, who uses about 25 geese and a few live ducks, besides a few wooden blocks. In 1927, the Higgins Camp accounted for 83 geese and 200 ducks.

Another new goose camp was started by Frederick Kidder in 1928. It is on the south shore of Pleasant Bay (in Chatham) on a point near the mouth of Ryder's Cove (so-called on the maps). I have not seen it. This ought to be a rather good location.

### *Nauset Inlet, Orleans*

#### *Sturdy's Camp*

The owner of this goose stand is Mr. F. E. Sturdy, Jr., of Attleboro Falls. J. E. Richardson, of Orleans, Massachusetts, reports to the State that in 1927 they shot 150 geese and 125 ducks. They use 38 live geese, 12 live ducks, besides a large number of wooden decoys.

This is very near the south end of Eastham beach.

Near the mouth of the harbor is a goose stand built on the beach like the Duxbury stands. I don't know how long this

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has been there. It is called Hay Stack Goose Camp, or Hopkins's Camp.

They are said to get a great many geese there. In 1927, they reported 193 geese and 85 ducks. The stand is owned by Alfred J. H. Hopkins, of East Orleans, who has a large rig of 80 to 85 geese and 25 ducks, besides many goose blocks. Some rumors have it that as high as 350 geese have been shot here in a single season recently. I was told by Mr. Higgins, who guns at Cox's stand on Follin's Pond, that they shot 495 geese there in one season. Higgins and Hopkins gunned there together for a year or two.

### *Great Pond, Eastham*

109 acres

In regard to the early history of this pond, I am fortunate in having some first-hand information from Dr. Gilman Osgood, Rockland, Massachusetts, Mr. Dwight Blaney, of Boston, and Dr. Edward Richardson, also of Boston.

The oldest news comes through Mr. Eugene Damon, of Brockton, now an old man (he is now in 1928, seventy-two), who has been a stand gunner all his life. Dr. Osgood tells me that Mr. Damon formerly worked at the Straight Pond House in Nantucket for Cooper Curtis and distinguished himself while there as a life-saver, although not connected with any life-saving organization. On one occasion, when the regular life-saving crew did not think their boat could possibly weather the sea, he went out alone in a boat and saved the life of one man. He received a medal from the Massachusetts Humane Society for this act. I give this story only as it was told me by Dr. Osgood and understand that Mr. Damon himself has never spoken of it. About ten years ago Eugene Damon married a Miss Carver, a nurse who trained in the Deaconess Hospital.

Mr. Damon says that Philip Smith owned the farm at Eastham on which he constructed a little stand, where he went when he wanted a pair of ducks or a goose to eat.

He probably conducted the stand in this way for many years.

For a period of about fifteen years, Washington Damon, now eighty-five, Bartlett Bradford, who died in 1917 at the age of sixty-eight, and Eugene Damon, ran a duck stand at Nine-Mile Pond in Centerville, and desiring to move their location to Eastham, they selected Great Pond as a desirable location. Mr. Smith would not sell or lease any of his land, but they leased one quarter of an acre from Willard Cole for a period of ten years. This land adjoined the Smith farm. This was about 1886. Mr. Damon says that Mr. Bradford had a complete record of the activities of this stand, containing all the scores for the different years, but the book was destroyed after Mr. Bradford's death.

The old Damon stand was about two hundred yards to the west of the present stand owned by Dwight Blaney (Bee-Hive Point).

The history of 'Bee-Hive Point' on the north side of the pond now owned by Dwight Blaney is in brief as follows: The property was owned by Luther B. Smith, father of the present Philip Smith. The latter's grandfather, also named Philip Smith, was apparently the first man to shoot at Bee-Hive Point. He probably only used wooden decoys, but of that we cannot be certain.

Mr. Blaney opened up his stand in 1897 and has a very good record of his shooting ever since. A great part of the time no shooting was done except when he was at the stand himself.

The late Dr. Maurice Richardson, the eminent surgeon, began shooting at Eastham Pond (south side) about 1892. At that time there was a sort of 'pond war' between his stand and the Damon crowd. The Richardson Stand was never accounted so good for ducks as Bee-Hive Point, except perhaps in heavy southerly winds.

Dr. Richardson's estate sold out to a club composed of Herbert Jaques, Herbert Windeler, and others about 1910

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or 1912, and it has remained a club ever since. The present owners are H. Windeler, Q. A. Shaw, and Frederick J. Bradlee. Elaborate changes have been made recently in the house and stand.

This pond was never much good for geese and more geese were shot in spring than in autumn. Forty to fifty was considered a good season. It was first and always a Black Duck pond. The biggest season around the pond would be about 800 ducks, so Dwight Blaney thinks. Dr. Richardson's best season was just about 500 birds, and in 1921 Bee-Hive Point got about 500 (the best year). In recent years this point has averaged around 250 to 300. A European Widgeon banded in Iceland was shot at the Richardson Stand in 1927, a very important record.

Black Ducks have undoubtedly increased a great deal in the Eastham region since the spring shooting was stopped in 1913. However, they have greatly changed their habits in the past thirty years, as they have in other Cape ponds. Dwight Blaney tells me that when he began to shoot there was a regular morning flight, not tidal, from the eastern marshes across the Cape to the Bay Shore, which was reversed in the evening. Thousands of ducks would pass over the pond and many would break away and drop into the pond. At times there were literally hundreds and thousands in the pond at one time. In heavy weather (northwest) one could often shoot ducks flying across by standing on the bluff back of the point. Even when the pond was frozen, ducks could sometimes be shot in this way. Also there were more Red-heads, Mallards, and other Western-bred species in the pond than there are now.

All this has changed in the past fourteen to fifteen years. (Have aeroplanes, big-gun practice, etc., had anything to do with it?) The morning and evening flights are not seen, but large numbers of ducks come to the pond at night, stay all night, and leave before legal shooting time. The pond is often literally covered with shed feathers on a calm morning.

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Baiting has been done for the past eight or ten years and of course nearly all this bait is eaten at night. I believe that Bee-Hive Point was one of the first places on the Cape to start baiting.

The best winds for Bee-Hive Point are northwest, during which ducks come directly over from the salt meadows and drop into quiet water. The following are records of some of the more uncommon ducks or unusual dates, from Dwight Blaney's journal, which he has obligingly extracted.

1897: Between March 20th and April 1st, 47 geese shot.  
October 11th, 1 Pintail; October 14th, 4 Mallards; October 15th, 1 Mallard; October 17th, 2 Pintails; November 7th & 8th, 3 Redheads.

1898: 1 Mallard, 2 Buffle-heads (not common here).

1899: April 1st, 6 geese; November 4th, 4 Buffle-heads; November 11th, 2 Buffle-heads; December 9th, 2 Mallards; December 30th, 1 Mallard.

1900: March 24th, 2 geese; October 13th, 1 Red-head, 5 Pintails; November 3rd, 14 Ruddies, 5 Baldpate Widgeon (Ruddy not very common on outer Cape).

1901: March 29th, 6 geese; March 31st, 7 geese; April 2nd, 4 geese; April 19th, 4 geese; October 18th, 2 Gadwalls; October 19th, 1 Mallard.

1902: January 10th, 2 Mallards; October 20th, 2 Redheads; October 22nd, 1 Mallard, 1 Redhead; October 23rd, 1 Redhead, 1 Pintail; October 24th, 3 Green-winged Teal.

1903: March 21st, 8 geese; March 26th, 2 geese; March 27th, 1 goose; March 28th, 10 geese; October 16th, 1 Baldpate, 1 Pintail; October 19th, 1 Baldpate; October 28th, 2 Redheads, 1 Ringneck; 1 Buffle-head; October 29th, 3 Buffle-heads; October 30th, 1 Buffle-head.

1904: October 22nd, 1 Pintail, 2 Baldpates; October 24th, 7 Mallards; October 25th, 1 Redhead; October 27th, 1 Mallard, 3 Baldpates.

1905: April 6th, 1 goose; April 9th, 3 geese; November 16th, 1 Redhead.

1906: April 12th, 4 geese; April 13th, 6 geese.

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1907: October 18th, 3 Pintails; November 16th, 4 Butterballs; November 30th, 1 Hooded Merganser.

1908: April 7th, 1 goose; April 10th, 1 goose; October 14th, 4 Green-winged Teal; October 15th, 3 Spoonbills, 1 Mallard; November 5th, 1 Redhead; 1 Green-winged Teal; November 7th, 1 Mallard, 2 Butterballs; November 10th, 1 Canvas-back (female); December 17th, 1 Pintail; December 18th, 1 Canvas-back (female).

1909: April 5th, 3 geese; April 6th, 2 geese; April 7th, 3 geese, 1 Shoveler duck or Spoonbill (male). (Note: A fine full-plumaged bird.) April 8th, 2 geese; October 14th, 3 Pintail, 3 Baldpates, 1 Blue-winged Teal; October 22nd, 3 geese; November 5th, 1 Redhead.

1910: December 12th, 2 Redheads.

1911: November 13th, 1 Baldpate.

1912: October 21st, 1 Baldpate; December 3rd, 1 Hooded Merganser.

1913: November 6th, 1 Redhead.

1914: October 7th, 2 Baldpates; October 8th, 3 Mallards; November 9th, 1 goose.

1915: October 1st, 1 Mallard; November 8th, 1 Butterball; November 23rd, 2 Butterballs (Buffle-head).

1916: November 10th, 1 Pintail; November 11th, 2 Pintails; November 13th, 4 geese, 1 Redhead, 1 Baldpate; November 21st, 5 geese.

1917: October 6th, 2 Baldpates. (Note: October 28th saw a flock of 28 whistling swans).

1918: October 11th, 1 Mallard (female); November 4th, 1 Green-winged Teal; November 8th, 1 Mallard (male).

1919: 1 Blue-winged Teal on September 26th; October 13th, 1 Mallard; October 31st, 2 Green-winged Teal; December 4th, 2 Green-winged Teal; December 6th, 1 Baldpate.

1920: September 23rd, 3 Green-winged Teal.

1921: September 24th, 1 Pintail; September 26th, 1 Green-winged Teal; October 8th, 1 Redhead, 1 Green-winged Teal; November 5th, 7 Redheads; November 5th, 1 English Widgeon; December 27th, 1 Canvas-back (male), 1 Baldpate.

1922: October 5th, 2 Pintails; October 14th, 1 Redhead; October 26th, 1 Redhead; December 12th, 1 goose.

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1923: September 25th, 2 Pintails; October 5th, 1 Mallard (female); October 6th, 3 Redheads; October 17th, 1 Pintail.  
1925: October 7th, 1 Pintail; November 7th, 1 Canvas-back; December 19th, 6 geese.  
1926: October 30th, 1 Buffle-head (female).  
1927: November 26th, 4 geese.

Note: This does not include Ruddies, Scaup, Black Ducks, and other common species.

### *Great Pond, Wellfleet*

*41 acres*

A good duck pond. I do not know much about it. The blind there is, or was owned by Arthur Lombard.

The gunning here dates back, so I am informed by the late Leslie E. Newcomb, of Wellfleet, to the old days of muzzle-loaders. Both this and the Gull Pond were gunned by Captain Eben Barnard at least fifty years ago. Leslie Newcomb has heard the Captain tell of shooting as many as twenty geese in a single afternoon.

### *Gull Pond, Wellfleet*

*103 acres*

The blind here is on the south shore, as I remember it, on land owned by a Dr. Thatcher. About 40 or 50 geese and around 100 ducks would be an average year. These Wellfleet Ponds were never as good as the ponds farther south.

A stand there now is called the Kittiwake Club, with George A. Thatcher, of Brockton, Massachusetts, as President. They use 23 live geese and 12 live ducks.

### *Herring River Marshes, Wellfleet*

A good many ducks are shot here as well as at Lieutenant's Isle and other places, but so far as I know there are no permanent duck blinds.

*Martha's Vineyard Island*

No doubt this island produced the best duck shooting in Massachusetts. This was due mostly to the fact that the ponds of its south shore were well supplied with duck foods; sago pond weed, wild celery, widgeon grass, etc., etc. Until recent years these ponds were not overgunned. The ducks were local in their habits and many stayed until frozen out.

Many factors have contributed to destroy the shooting of twenty-five years ago. The main dependence for sport in those days was the Lesser Scaup duck, with a good many Redheads, Greater Scaup, Canvas-backs and Ruddies. Both Lesser Scaup and Redheads have decreased nearly everywhere, and since many new camps have sprung up, diving-ducks do not have an opportunity to get to 'tending' as they used to. Allan Kenniston tells me that, when he was a youngster just beginning to take an interest in shooting, Ruddy ducks were very common in Edgartown Great Pond — thousands on this lake at one time. Blue-winged Teal also were very common in those days, but few are seen there to-day. There have also been many disastrous sea tides which have destroyed feed, while in January, 1928, the beach of Edgartown Pond broke through completely. It has since filled up across the gap (May, 1928). The same thing has happened before.

In regard to the topography of these ponds, Allan Kenniston sends me an interesting note. He says that when he was a boy (he is forty-three now) he was told that not long before that time all the ponds on the south shore were united and formed one great lagoon, from Katama Bay to the western end of Chilmark Pond. The early inhabitants used to be able to go by boat the entire distance. In the past forty years additional ponds have been cut off by the continuous advance of the south beach northward. Several of the smaller ponds have been entirely obliterated by this same movement. Within recent years a small pond just east of Edgartown

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Great Pond has been filled up. The long neck of land in Job's Neck Pond was a point not many years ago. When Kenniston first went duck shooting, it was a long gunshot from the end of that point to the south beach. Pohogonot Pond, just west of Job's Neck Pond, was merely a cove of the larger pond when Kenniston was twelve years old.

A cove on the west shore of Oyster Pond is now cut off by the advancing beach, forming a separate pond, all brought about within the memory of one man.

The Long Cove, which appears on the maps as a part of the eastern extremity of Great Tisbury Pond, is a cove no longer. It is a separate sheet of water cut off by the so-called Long Point. This happened only about fifteen years ago. It is therefore plain enough that unless the present forces of nature are changed in some way or another, all these ponds will be greatly reduced in area in the next generation.

There are few permanent stands on the Vineyard, but some rough notes on the ponds may prove of some interest.

### *Squibnocket Pond, Chilmark and Gay Head*

254 acres

Formerly owned by Gardiner G. Hammond, at least all the southwest and north shores. Hammond bought five or six old farms, among them that of Abner Mayhew, which latter place was the site of Hammond's house. The present owner of this property is Ralph Hornblower, of Boston. The Robinson place at the Flaghole, at the east end, is hired by Benjamin Crowell, of Vineyard Haven. On the northeast side the property is leased by Dr. Orland S. Mayhew, of Vineyard Haven.

Squibnocket is one of the best ponds on the Vineyard for Widgeon and Black Duck, but not so good for diving-ducks as several of the other ponds. It is well supplied with sago pond weed, and there are some beds of celery.

Gardiner Hammond gunned the southwest cove for many years. Marshall Norton, his old gunner, tells me that their

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best year was about 1000 ducks, but this killed off the Black Ducks too fast and reduced the shooting. They began baiting in 1902 and used two or three tons of bait in a season. Hammond used to sell some of his ducks to the Touraine Hotel and to the Tennis and Racquet Club; \$400 to \$500 worth a year, and one season \$600.

I leased this property from Hammond in the autumn of 1919, with the following results:

Black Ducks.....	215	Redheads.....	8
American Widgeon.....	124	Greater Scaup.....	14
European Widgeon.....	1	Ruddies.....	5
Green-winged Teal.....	3	Goosander.....	1
Pintail.....	1	Sheldrake.....	1

Nearly all the shooting was done on the western shore of the south cove, using wooden decoys and live decoys. During November, a flock of seven swans used the lake for about a week, a rare sight in Massachusetts. The best shoot was during a heavy northwest blow on November 6, when we got 82 birds before noon; the next morning, 33 more. Of this lot of birds 72 were Widgeon. The pond froze rather early that season and we did not shoot it at all hard.

A few geese come to Squibnocket Pond. Hammond had a goose blind at one time on the long point in the middle of the south shore. It had not been used for some years before 1919.

At the north end of Squibnocket, close to the road, there is an elevation called 'Shot Nigher Hill,' which apparently was a famous place in the old days for shooting ducks when they came out of Squibnocket going towards Menemsha Pond. I tried it there once or twice myself without any luck.

In the season of 1919, I should guess that we had around 2500 to 3000 Widgeon, 1200 to 1500 Black Ducks, 50 geese, and a sprinkling of diving-ducks, including a good many Ruddies 'tending' this pond.

The shooting was all wing shooting during heavy northerly winds. We found we could not shoot this cove successfully

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in southerly winds, as it broke up the 'tending' birds too much.

It was a grand sight here to see the great flocks of Widgeon coming in from the sea in the early morning.

### *Menemsha Pond*

This is a large salt pond where some Sheldrake and other salt-water birds are shot. So far as I know there are no regular stands on it. A fine point at the northwest corner is owned by Linus Jeffries.

### *Chilmark Pond, Chilmark*

278 acres

This is a long, straggling body of water with several small blinds, mostly owned by natives of the Vineyard. I understand they are not gunned regularly through the whole season. At one time there was a large goose blind here which was operated for one or two seasons without much luck. Eel fishermen are said to disturb this pond a good deal, or at least they did at one time. It is opened to the sea several times a year to let in alewives for spawning. The water is somewhat brackish, but two large brooks keep it fairly fresh. Some Widgeon, Scaup, and Redheads use this pond, or fly through it, and perhaps an average of 100 or so are killed here in a season. Nothing apparently very big. There are a great many owners around this pond, so many, in fact, that it would take too much space to mention them all.

### *Black Pond, or Black Point Pond, Chilmark*

88 acres

The controlling parts of the shores of this pond are owned by Andrew Mills and Johnson Whiting, of West Tisbury, both separate holdings. The beach has moved inland and

cut down the size of this and neighboring ponds. Several small ponds, now separate from Black Pond, were once part of the main pond. There are no permanent blinds, but shooting from small 'hides.' The shooting is mostly in bad weather and large bags are very uncommon. The food in the pond consists mostly of widgeon grass and it is a good place for Widgeon and geese; with a few Scaup and other diving-ducks in flight to other ponds.

*Great Tisbury Pond, Chilmark and West Tisbury*

671 acres

The long cove is now cut off from the main pond, forming a separate sheet of water (91 acres).

A large block of property on the west shore is owned by Mr. Andrew Mills, of New York City, and north of that by Mr. James B. Corcoran, of Springfield. They report a good many ducks here — 250 in 1927. The east shore owned by Mrs. James Look; also the Long Point Gunning Club (formerly the John Johnson property). Other owners are Theodore G. Streater, J. Athern, etc.; the Middle Point Club, H. J. Horton and others. Across from the Long Point Club is Homer's Point Gunning Club, of Vineyard Haven, whose president is Prentice Bodfish. On the beach of Great Tisbury Pond, Robert Bigelow has three cement blinds built out into the water.

Tisbury Pond is kept fairly salt by an artificial opening and the food is mostly eel grass. Some brooks come into the cove and keep this northern end fairly fresh. This cove runs northwest almost to the main road at West Tisbury. This pond is not nearly so good as it once was. The ducks there to-day are mostly Greater Scaup, with some Redheads and Canvas-backs, and a few geese and Black Ducks. In the spring many geese stop here on migration and stay until late in the season.

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### *Homer's Pond, West Tisbury*

43 acres

This pond is usually fresh, though recently it was flowed by salt water (August, 1924), which killed the pickerel in it. This pond is controlled by the Homer's Point Club, and 200 or more ducks are killed here in a season, I am told. It is not much of a feed pond, but in the old days was famous for flight shooting.

### *Little Homer's Pond*

Little Homer's Pond is to the eastward; a small pond controlled by the Watcha Club. The water is fresh and a few Black Ducks are shot here.

### *Watcha, or Fresh Pond, West Tisbury*

74 acres

Owned now by the Watcha Club, at least all of the important part of the shore. The club has cement blinds.

At present there is almost no feed in this pond on account of the storm tide of 1924. At one time it was well stocked with celery and redhead grass and was a famous place for Redheads. Nowadays there are more Scaup and Whistlers than anything else. Geese have not been gunned here regularly, but Black Ducks are baited.

### *Oyster Pond, Edgartown*

207 acres

A large brackish pond open to the sea, which is salt enough to breed oysters, although they are not used commercially. The fowl here are mostly Sheldrakes and other salt-water species, with a few Black Ducks. The water is rather deep, perhaps with an average of fifteen feet.

Opposite the Watcha Club property, Frank L. Norton, of Edgartown, leases to Allan Kenniston. The rest of the east

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side and the beach is owned by the George D. Flynn estate, except that some of the beach land is undivided between the Norton and Flynn properties. There was a goose blind here once operated by Flynn. A good place for geese, but it has not been used for the past four or five years.

### *Paqua Pond, Edgartown*

20 acres

This is a small fresh pond not much used except for geese when those birds could be shot in the spring. It is owned by the George D. Flynn estate.

### *Pohagonot Pond*

A small pond east of the Paqua Pond, fifteen to eighteen acres in size. There is nothing much shot there to-day, though it probably could be baited for Black Ducks.

### *Job's Neck Pond, Edgartown*

159 acres

Nearly all the shores of this pond are owned by the George D. Flynn estate. There is a small holding on the north shore of the main pond owned by Frank L. Norton.

This pond is fresh water and there is a small amount of wild celery, but the duck food is not very good. Allan Kenniston tells me that back in 1917, some 2000 'pond fowl' (diving-ducks) fed here, but of late years very few fowl. In the season of 1928, some 500 Redheads and Canvas-backs got to feeding in the main cove.

### *Edgartown Great Pond, or Herring Pond, Edgartown*

1157 acres

This great sheet of water used to provide the best shooting on the Vineyard. It is not nearly so good as it used to be. Normally this is fresh water, although there is a herring creek

which connects the east end with Katama Bay. In January, 1928, during a severe storm, the sea broke through the beach on the south side, forming a natural opening. This, however, closed in May by the building up of a high sand bar across the opening. Most of the natural food, however, was destroyed.

The most famous shooting ground on this pond was the Long Point, which runs far out on the western side into the very center of the pond. It was shot for many years by Mr. George D. Flynn. I cannot do better than quote from a letter of Allan Kenniston's.

'Of course, as you may know, the water is very shallow all about the immediate vicinity of Swan Neck Point and the "island" so-called; white bottom and shallow water. Very shoal water does not make for good decoying, so the shooting on the portion of the property comprising the Neck is for the greater part strictly flight shooting rather than decoying.

'Imagine yourself walking out to one of the five sunken (made to order) barrels of that period, the sky showing ducks, but with ever-increasing numbers the flocks are tearing over your head with the speed of an aeroplane, all flying to the north to Wintucket and Jones's Coves to feed on the ample celery beds. Very soon you and your companions in the other barrels are shooting as fast as you can load and fire. This early morning shooting at this point, number 1 on the map enclosed with this letter, did not vary with the wind direction unless the Neck was shot too hard. A north wind kept them down within range, but for the most part in those days the Neck was not shot to excess, as there were much better places to shoot on the property (Flynn's) where the bags were larger, the ducks being killed at the decoys. But in regard to one particular morning six or eight ducks in the hour of fast shooting per man was considered good. To tell you the truth, guests of Mr. Flynn were on the whole poor shots, and it would have been easy for the five men in the five barrels or casks to have killed three times the number if

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they had been market gunners, or, in other words, crack shots.

'In the evening when the ducks left the coves there was very little shooting (most nights), as the ducks left the coves all at once and you were lucky if you got more than one shot.

'If a northeast storm was in progress, one could shoot Swan Neck at intervals during most of the day, particularly if the coves were being shot at the same time. Then again, if a strong south wind was blowing, there was a like result. But during the daylight hours the ducks would be apt to cross at various points from the woods to the tip of Swan Neck Island, while during the semi-dark hours they were more apt to fly at and cross over the same (inside) section of the Neck, the part between the "island" and the woods.

'In my time no large bags were made, as the guests were for the most part, as I have said, very poor shots.'

A large goose blind was built on the Swan Neck ten or twelve years ago. Before that, very few geese were shot and no live goose decoys were used.

Nowadays this pond is more of a goose pond than anything else; 1926 and 1927 were poor years and probably not over 300 ducks and 100 geese were shot around the pond. Formerly many Lesser Scaup, Redheads, and Ruddies, with quite a few Canvas-backs, were killed. Of late years few Ruddies, Scaup, or Redheads.

The west end of the pond and all of Job's Neck Cove, besides Swan Neck, is included in the George D. Flynn estate. However, the courts have recently decided that a large part of Swan Neck is really the property of Amos Smith.

The Flynn property goes to Boldwater Point on Jones's Cove. Then comes the Amos Smith property. This includes the rest of Jones's Cove and Nauschemois Point; also Wintucket Cove, to the property of Arthur Hillman. The land on the east, formerly the Owen Norton farm, now the Hall farm, comes clear down to Konomica Point. The Point itself is owned by others; F. M. Rhodes, etc.

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Meshacket Cove is owned by the Hall family and others. Clement Norton has the east side of the cove to Meshacket Point. The Point itself was owned by a New Bedford club; perhaps now by Thomas Wilson, of Edgartown. The Tom Marshall Pease Cove on the northeast side is also owned by Thomas Wilson.

Next, on the south side, comes S. Prescott Fay, all the way to King's Point, Butler's Point, the Slough Cove, most all of Jenkins's Point, and a part of Quacktuckset Cove. On this cove also is the property of Jacob Weihl, of New Bedford. South of this again is some property held by A. Vincent *et al.*

On the south or beach side there are many owners, the largest of whom is F. A. Ferris, Jr. (formerly Proctor), for a mile or more. There is a goose blind here owned by Clarence D. Hayden, which gets around 70 to 100 geese.

### *Katama Bay*

This is salt water and there is a stretch of public shooting ground on the south beach. The ownership of this beach is questionable owing to geographical changes which have taken place in the past few years.

There is no stand there now although Allan Kenniston had a small goose blind there at one time. Some Scaup are killed in this Bay, besides Whistlers, Sheldrake and Black Ducks.

### *Poucha Pond*

*acreage (?)*

This has always been a good duck pond, but there is considerable poaching here. The water is fresh and there is a quantity of widgeon grass and other duck foods. Many Redheads and other 'pond fowl' used to come here, especially at night, which made splendid shooting in the old days. They came over from the west side very low.

This is also a good Widgeon and goose pond and very fair for Black Ducks. Small goose blinds have been operated

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here at times. Probably this is the best pond left on the Vineyard.

Curtis Nye Smith owns the south and southwest sides and also the Goldberg property (Eliot Norton family). Arthur Sharpe owns the northwest side of this pond. Ben. Pease has the beach side between the road and the pond, as well as some land at the northwest corner of the pond.

### *Cape Poge Pond or Bay*

There is some flight shooting for common salt-water ducks around the beaches of this bay, mostly Scoters and Sheldrake. It is said to be very lively here at times.

### *Trapp's Pond, or Lower Trapp's Pond, Edgartown*

*27 acres*

There is a goose blind here owned and operated by Orrin Norton, of Edgartown. It has been run since about 1925 and around forty geese are shot during a season. The food here consists of widgeon grass in great abundance, and Black Ducks feed here at night in large numbers.

### *Aunt Tiers Pond, or Sengekentucket Pond, Cottage City and Edgartown*

This great lagoon is much overshot, but a good many fowl come to it, especially at night and after the season has closed. Some Brant use this pond and a few are shot here. This is salt water through natural openings to the sound and the food is mostly eel grass. There used to be many fowl shot along the main road on the beach side after dark, among them a considerable number of Redheads and Scaup. Now that shooting stops, or is supposed to stop, at sunset, there is not much doing along this beach.

On the west side, or southwest shores, a few Black Ducks are shot early in the season.

There is one large goose blind on the west side, built in

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1926. Most of the stands on the west side are used irregularly, and one of them, called Big Gravel Island, reports through Frank F. Blankenship that they shot 52 Brant there in 1927. It is difficult to say how many ducks are shot in this pond at the present time. If it were not so accessible and overgunned, it would be a very fine place for shooting.

There are so many owners around this pond, it is scarcely possible in this place to mention them all.

### *Tashmoo or Chapaquauaset Pond, Tisbury*

*215 acres*

This pond is no good for ducks. A few swan were seen here in 1926. It is a great place for white perch and the State does considerable fish-salvage work there.

### *Lagoon Pond, Cottage City and Tisbury*

About the same as Tashmoo; a few ducks are shot here.

### *James Pond, West Tisbury*

*40 acres*

The west shore of this pond is owned by the Honorable William M. Butler. I do not know what sort of shooting they get there.

### *Sacha, or Sachacha Pond, Nantucket Island*

*293 acres*

There is a stand on this large pond where they get a fair number of geese (58 in 1927). They do not get many ducks. They use 52 live geese and only a few live ducks.

One year, 1925, they got 75 geese and 100 ducks. This is about high line.

The stand is owned by Fred B. Maglathlin, of Polpis, Nantucket. It is situated only a short distance from the

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main road on the west side of the pond under a high bank. There are bunks for about ten men in the camp and I believe they take in sportsmen.

This pond has been gunned with a permanent rig for only about six or eight years. There was a considerable period when live decoys were forbidden by law in Nantucket County.

There is said to be good feed in this pond and they get a few Scaups, Redheads, and Canvas-backs. At the north end of the pond, facing the ocean, there is a considerable group of summer cottages. The rest of the pond is not yet badly built up.

### *Hummock Pond, Nantucket Island*

257 acres

This large pond, with its surrounding wind-swept moors, is separated from the ocean only by a narrow beach. There are really two bodies of water, Clarke's Cove being the westernmost.

There are two stands reporting from this pond, Clarke's Cove Club, Joseph R. Burgess, of Nantucket, and the Ram Pasture Gun Club, with several owners, Leon M. Royal, of Nantucket, reporting.

Marcus Dunham told me this pond had been gunned for only fifteen or sixteen years with intermissions when live decoys were forbidden. Aeroplanes are said to bother the place a good deal, as they fly over this pond and Long Pond.

Ram Pasture Stand is about in the middle of the west or northwest side of the main body of the pond. This so-called Ram Pasture was one of the famous plover grounds in the old days. This place has a team of about 50 to 55 geese, and in 1927 they reported a kill of 79 geese. In 1928, they got about 100 geese, their best year.

Clarke's Cove is not gunned regularly and apparently no large bags have been made there. There has usually been only a small rig, and 27 geese were reported for 1927. Tom

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Stevenson gunned this in 1928. He tells me that the great drawback is a road which winds along the shore close to the stand. He got some geese and a good many ducks, mostly Scaups and Ruddy Ducks, with a few Blacks. He says that with luck one could get around 300 ducks and about 75 to 100 geese.

Quite a number of sea-ducks use this pond late in the season, and I saw American Coot (mud-hens) there the first week of January.

Directly opposite the Ram Pasture Camp is the remains of an old stand which apparently has not been used for many years. I was told that John Roberts gunned there for three or four years.

### *Long Pond, Nantucket*

183 acres

There is, or was, a stand here owned by W. E. Chadwick and Jack Roberts, both of Nantucket. I believe it was on the center of the east side. The pond was not adapted for stand gunning, perhaps too long and narrow. But a good many Scaup, Ruddies, Whistlers, and 'coot' are shot there from temporary 'hides.' Some geese come to this pond, but do not decoy well.

Marcus Dunham tells me that there is a small fresh-water clam in this pond that is a favorite food for diving-ducks of the commoner sort.

### *Pocomo Marsh, Nantucket*

A stand owned by William D. Jaffrey and F. S. Echevira, of Nantucket. The stand has changed hands recently, but is still used. It is a duck stand with only a small camp. This is a marsh of 200 acres or more with some fresh water here and there.

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### *Nantucket Harbor*

A stand called Third Point Camp, or Cootue (or Coatue) Club, is owned by Frederick C. Ayers and others, of Nantucket.

This is on the inside of the beach which separates Nantucket Harbor from the Vineyard Sound. There is a small camp used mostly for salt-water wild-fowl shooting. No live decoys are used. They do not get any Brant in the harbor now. This may be due to the fact that the eel grass is very much used up by scalloperers.

### *Mataket Harbor, Eel Point*

Tom Arnold went to this beach in or about 1900. He built a low shanty at the northwest end, on the outside beach about a quarter of a mile from the outer point. He gunned there for geese about three years and then gave it up. He got a few geese, but found that the current was so strong in front of his stand that the geese would not swim up to his decoys. They got swept away too soon.

After this, Arnold went to Smith's Point at the southwest corner of the Bay (Mataket), gunned one or two years, and then gave it up. He used the first live goose decoys on Nantucket.

### *Tuckernuck Island, South Pond*

This used to be rather a large pond, but of late years it has been crushed in by the beach and is now of little use. Some large bags of Black Ducks have been made there. It has at times been baited. In November, 400 or 500 ducks get to 'tending' there if they are not disturbed.

This pond has recently been purchased from Mrs. George E. Coffin by a Mr. Craig (?).

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